

SECRET HISTORY

AND

MEMOIRS

OF THE

BARRACKS

OF

IRELAND.

For I must speak what Wisdom would conceal,
And Truths, invidious to the Great, reveal;
Bold is the Task, when Subjects, grown too wise,
Instruct a S—n—te, where their Error lies.

HOMER by POPE.

The THIRD EDITION.

L O N D O N.

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wealths of *Greece* and *Rome*, the Powers of a State were never so firmly established, so equally poised, or so justly distributed, as in ours ; our Constitution is formed as it were by the Disposition of Angels, but alas it is unluckily administer'd by Men ! This was all our Ancestors could do for us, they have plan'd the Play of Life most perfectly, but their Children were to be the Actors, and they could not provide against their bungling their Parts.

There is unhappily a Lust of Dominion in the very Nature of Man ; we cringe to those above us, merely to be made more capable of insulting those beneath us ; and thus in order to become Tyrants, we become Slaves. It is through this Appetite for Rule, that we submit to a wretched Dependence, the lesser Power still worships the greater, and so upward, till the Powers of the whole People are again resolved into a Few, in spite of all human Provisions or Establishments.

How highly hath our Constitution provided for the equal Distribution of Power in Parliaments ; there, every Member is alike free to speak and vote agreeable to the sacred Confidence reposed upon him by the People ; and this Confidence is, that he should speak and vote, only as public Interest should influence, and as eternal Truth should dictate. Again how minutely hath our Constitution provided for the equal Distribution of Power in Grand Juries ; These, through every Country are composed of Men, who by their Fortune are supposed independent of any sinister Byass, and who are equally obliged to Justice, by their Oath, as by their Honour.

And yet, whoever hath been conversant with the former Histories of this Business, may please to reflect, that Grand Juries have either been divided by Faction, where Opposition was the reigning Principle ; or if unanimous, have submitted to the leading of one or two Men, who by Consequence governed those who governed the County : Again the leading Men of each County have in their Turns submitted to the leading

ading of a few others in Parliament, who by Consequence governed those who governed the Nation.

How few are there, even in these the best of Times, who depend merely on the Laws for Equity, or on their own Industry for Support; all endeavour to push an Interest, why? because it is prevalent; Power would not be courted, if it was not necessary to Success.

But of all Stations in which Power is considered, it becomes most adorable in the Disposal of publick Posts and Employments; what Crouds then turn dolaters, ambitious of being in Time the Idols of others.

On whom then are such Places and Preferments conferred? Is it on those who seek, or on those who are sought after? Virtue is often too stubborn to cringe, and Merit too modest to press forward; and yet Capacity and Integrity seem by no Means inconvenient to the Discharge of public Trusts; and I could almost be tempted to part with all our other National Privileges, provided a Method could be invented, of putting our Affairs, both Civil and Military into such Hands alone as were qualified for a due Execution.

A propos, said a Gentleman, the very Method you wish is now actually in Agitation: Our House of Commons have highly determined to raise to themselves a Name superior to all that hath been boasted of *Senates* or *Sanhedrim*s; they gloriously look on themselves as the collective Body of a very great People, where every Member carries in his own Person the Importance of those Thousands he represents; they justly look on themselves as the Elect from among Men, in whom the Public becomes as it were a private Person, investing them with all its Rights and all its Powers; and they, on their Part, have as generously divested themselves of their private Character and Interests, and have given themselves wholly in Exchange to the Public.

Thus, like the tender Father of one large Family, our House of Commons have entered into the Interests of this Nation; they study all our Advantages, they feel all our Wants; liberal of their own, they are yet thrifty for their Country; and faithful among themselves, have determined to expel all Fraud from among the People.

They are no Respecters of Persons, the Great are not too high for their Reach, nor the Little too minute for their Scrutiny; they bring all Wrongs within the Compass of their Discovery, nor can any Injury lye beyond their Redress.

Our public Funds will no longer be drained into private Purses, nor our National Interests turned into personal Jobs; there will be no future Market for Offices and Employments; Capacity is to be the only Candidate, and Merit the only Purchaser. It will no more be a Question what becomes of National Savings, all will be detected, all laid open, Imposition will have no Patronage, Knavery will have no Sanctuary.

Our glorious Oeconomists will sift every Account, will bring all Things to Judgment even before their own Tribunal; the Money, which they thus rescue from private Talons, will be reserved by their Thrift, to be applied by their Wisdom; to the Propagation of Religion, the Reformation of Morals, the polishing of Manners; to the Preferment of Genius, the Reward of Invention, the Refinement of Sciences, the Perfection of Arts; to the Employment of Industry, the Improvement of Manufactures, the Advancement of Agriculture, the Enlargement of Trade; to the Encouragement of Plantations, the Discovery of Mines, the Navigation of our Rivers, the reclaiming of our Lands; in short, to make us a virtuous, a wise, and a happy People.

Where such Funds fail, for the Attainment of those good and glorious Purposes; they will be further supplied in a Manner the least burdensome; and should all these Provisions be insufficient, the Parliament

ment will add the Remainder from their own private Fortunes; for they will heap Benefits on these their Children as it were a Treasure to themselves, and to do good to this People will be their only Luxury.

Here the Farmer smiled; I have, said he, seen no new Appearance in the Heavens, prophetic of such Revolutions on Earth; what Instance do you produce as the Foundation of your Hopes? On what Presumption do you expect that this your Dream may come to pass? But seriously, you have drawn such an agreeable Plan of our *Utopia* that is to be, that provided the Tenth of what you divine were at any Time to take Effect, I would make one Feast of all my Cattle, one Bonfire of all my Corn, and cast my Rent into the Flames.

Here the Gentleman could not contain; are you a Stranger (he cry'd) in the Land, and yet ignorant of these Things; These are no Chimeras, no Dreams as you would insinuate, but real Facts, as well known as French Gold in *Flanders*, and yet no older than the last Session. I admit that heretofore little of this Matter hath been effected, or perhaps intended; there is a Beginning to all Things; our late Governor had the Curiosity to try what the Spirit of Patriotism would attempt when authorized by his Power, and encouraged by his Example; he accordingly gave free Scope to our Parliament, and they instantly seized the Advantage. They entered on the Accounts of the Nation; the State of the Barracks was the first that occurred, and was perhaps the most obnoxious and fraudulent; they ordered the several References of Books, Papers, and Minutes to be laid before them; they summoned together all possible Intelligences, they dived to the very Bottom of this Gulph of Iniquity; where many Thousands of Pounds have been yearly lavished, though hardly wrung from this distressed Country; thence they brought Imposition to Light, and the Shame of Barrack-Masters to the Face of the Sun; and accordingly their Justice hath published and exposed the Crimes that their Penetra-

tion discovered. Nor did they stop here, they proved the true Physicians of their Country, and no sooner perceived the Disease than they applied an adequate Remedy; perhaps it was impossible to retrieve to their Country the huge Sums already embezzled; for it is said, that from the Hands of the Devil there is no Redemption; but then they have with such Economy, such Prudence, such Foresight provided against any future Impositions, they have so securely hedged in, and tramel'd our Gentlemen Barrack-Masters, that it will be impossible for them hereafter to pass the Bounds of their Duty; and in this they compassed two most excellent Ends, they have rescued several Thousands a Year from these private Harpies, to be disposed to public Benefits; and have at the same Time made a flagrant Example in the Punishment of a Set of Men, perhaps the most profligate that ever infested a Nation, that could pretend to any Order or good Government.

Sir, said the Farmer, somewhat dryly, you would oblige me much by being a little more particular, and I assure you that you can give no Instance of the Wisdom of our Representatives, in which I shall not think myself interested, and at which I shall not truly rejoice,

I have, said the Gentleman, the very Report of their Committee in my Pocket, here it is; this is my *Manuel*, my constant *Vade mecum*, which I read to my own Comfort, and publish to the Honour of our Parliament.

The Farmer replied, I have already seen that Paper, and perused it several Times.

What then, exclaimed the Gentleman, can you further require, either for Instruction or Conviction, in every Article I have asserted? Can it be shewn that any Body of Men ever entered on a Disquisition with equal Zeal, or pursued it with equal Application? Observe then, for if you are not wilfully blind, I shall quickly open your Eyes to these Truths.

Parliamentary State of the Barracks.

FIRST, note here, that his Majesty King *William*, of ever glorious Memory, appointed by Charter a Body Corporate as Trustees for the Barracks, and thereby empowered them to take Leases, or purchase Houses and Lands in Fee, to a Value not exceeding 400*l.* Yearly; and by another Charter appointed Overseers of said Barracks, to inspect and regulate the same, and preserve them in good Condition and Repair; and her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, and his late Majesty King *George*, did, by their respective Letters Patents appoint the same Overseers, and under the same Directions; and those Overseers actually made several wholesome Rules and Orders, to which their Successors should therefore have adhered.

Next observe, that by his late Majesty's military Establishment in the Year 1717, there were 63 Troops, and 210 Companies in this Kingdom, and 1333*l.* 10*s.* was yearly appointed to defray the whole Charge; and was accordingly apportioned under the several requisite Heads, and was then sufficient to the full Expence; and that further, during the two Years, ended 25th of *March* 1723, there was the same Number of Troops and Companies, and yet no exceeding on the Head of Barracks, which implies that the said annual Sum of 1333*l.* 10*s.* was sufficient to that Time.

From the Year 1723, we may then date our *Æra* of Barrack Iniquity; for though his present Majesty, in the Year 1728, made a new Establishment, yet such Establishment was made without any Variation, as to the Number of Troops and Companies, or the annual Expence of Barracks, which therefore should have continued the same.

But did the Expence continue the same? Was there no exceeding from the Year 1723? We shall soon

soon see—look you here—nine thousand, fifteen thousand, six thousand, fourteen thousand, and so on, till we come to the 31st of *March 1745*, where we find the Exceedings from the 31st of *March 1723*, to amount to the Sum of 136,841*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* which, divided by these twenty two Years, makes an Annual exceeding of 6220*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* which with the annual Establishment of 13336*l.* 10*s.* makes the yearly Sum of 19556*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

Well, you will answer, this great Sum perhaps was expended in order to make as great a future Saving to the Nation; many decayed Barracks might have been rebuilt, and many others repaired with Additions and Improvements in such a way, as might for a long time prevent any further Expence on this Head; why truly all this and more might have been done for less Money; but whether it was or not, we shall see by a Return which the Inspectors made, in and for the Year 1744, immediately preceding the Session.

Here it is, and here it appears by the Report of the said Inspectors, that almost all the Barracks of the Kingdom were then in a ruinous Condition.

What then became of this huge Sum of 136841*l.* is it not quite unaccountable? Not at all, turn your Eye here, and you will see the quick Conveyance of all this Money amply accounted for, without a single Instance of Art-magic.

Here you find that notwithstanding the Dispositions of the old Establishment, notwithstanding the Appointments of the several Sums for Repairs and Supplies, notwithstanding the Contracts entered into by Barrack-Masters and the Securities by them given to repair said Barracks, and so forth; the Overseers have for many Years past, in Ease of, and to favour said Barrack-Masters, generally repaired the Barracks and made good the Deficiencies of Bedding and Utensils at the public Expence, over and above and wholly exclusive of all the Money yearly granted for those special Purposes.

Now it cannot be supposed that the Parliament would have resolved this Fact to be as it is set forth, unless

unless it had been proved by Evidences altogether incontestable ; and indeed after this Discovery, I am much surprized that the Parliament should be surprized at all, at the large Purchases given for the Places of our Barrack-Masters ; for here again it appears by the Parliamentary Report, that the Allowances appointed to several of these Barrack-Masters amounted, with their Salaries, from two Hundred to four Hundred Pounds yearly, which, as the whole was thus made Salary, and the place partly a Sinecure, by the Indulgence of the Overseers, might justly enough be estimated from one to two Thousand Pounds, which is no more than five Years Purchase.

But neither is this the whole Burden of Mischiefs, with which this Proceeding was freighted ; it further gave Encouragement to such Barrack-Masters as had an Interest with the Overseers to suffer their Barracks, Bedding, &c. to run to Decay, and yet further to embezzle and misapply those extraordinary Grants, that they might repeat and perpetuate the Occasions of such Demands ; thus the Barrack-Master's Guilt became his Interest, and the greater his Omissions the greater grew his Claims ; which Method sowed the Seed of such future Impositions, as must far have exceeded all the Excesses already recited, if our Parliament had not happily interposed.

However the Generosity of Overseers was not wholly confined to these little Men called Barrack-Masters, the Great also shared their Favour ; many Addresses and Proposals were preferred to the Board, representing the great Advantage of Situation for Barracks, where it was the great Interest of the Proposers to have them Built.

Accordingly the Overseers had not the Rudeness to refuse People of Figure, and from the Æra of 1723, in which the national Purse-Strings were first stretched, we find that the additional Rent of new Buildings erected, or of old Buildings turned into new Barracks, amounts to upwards of 800/. yearly, in direct and wilful Contradiction to the said Charter

of his Majesty King *William*, and in Contradiction to a Resolution of our honourable the House of Commons, made in the Year 1731.

I shall not object any Thing to the Indulgence granted to non-contracting Barrack-Masters, because, as Matters were managed, all those Contracts were just so much waste Paper, as the Overseers perform'd the Requisites for which the Barrack-Masters contracted; but I own myself provoked at those Barrack-Masters who assume the foreign Airs of our Absentees of Quality, and thus add their grain of Weight to the greatest Load, under which any Nation ever laboured.

It were endless to recite Instances of the Oeconomy of Overseers, in employing those very Men to return Estimates of Repairs, &c. who were to receive the Money appointed for the Work: As also the Instances of Sums, sufficient to build excellent Barracks from the Foundation, which yet were granted for the mere Repair of Barracks, that to this Day remain to be repaired.

In short there appears so perfect a Correspondence between the Overseers and these their favourite Servants, that nothing could prevent the Affluence of giving on one Side, except the Bashfulness of asking on the other.

But further, this their Character for Generosity is greatly heightened, when we reflect, that how profuse soever they might be in granting, they scorn'd ever to reclaim any Part of what they bestowed, or even to accept thereof when offered; they were like many other Oeconomists in this Kingdom, who lay down excellent Rules for good Living and good Management, and are indeed deficient in nothing, but the Practice.

After all, there is one Resolution of Parliament and only one from which I dissent, and that is where the Application of the Overseers to the Government to advise his Majesty to encrease the Establishment

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or Barracks to the great Sum of 18,652 l. 12 s. 10 d. is resolved to be a presumptuous Attempt.

Now, after the great and constant Exceedings, which together with the old Establishment amounted to the yearly Sum of 19,556 l. and yet left the Barracks of the Kingdom in a ruinous Condition ; I conceive that an Application for an Establishment only of 18,652 l. was extremely modest and bashful ; but indeed you may answer, that this was intended only as a wider Foundation whereon to build future Exceedings, more lofty than any yet erected.

I shall decline finding further Faults, as it is a Task ungrateful to my Nature ; especially where those Faults are already so worthily reproved, so justly reformed, and so prudently provided against by our Parliament ; a Parliament whose Application can be rivaled by nothing but their Wisdom, whose Penetration contends with their Integrity for Praise, indefatigable in their Inquiries, impartial in their Censures, provident in their Resolutions, and equitable in all their Ordinances ; they have at once erected a Monument to their own Honour, and left a Lesson to all future Patriots.

Here this Gentleman concluded, and the Farmer after some Pause replied,

The FARMER'S Answer to the Parliamentary State of the BARRACKS.

SIR, I acknowledge that you are perfectly versed in the Tenor of that Paper before you, and have made the very best of your Argument, that is to say, you have set all Barrack-Transactions in the very worst Light that they can possibly bear ; but then, Sir, you have gone beyond your Text, and have pointed the plain Censures of Parliament, with all the Acrimony in your Power.

Every Person living hath one Side where the Light striketh, and another from whence his Shade is projected, you, Sir, have drawn your Pourtrait from the gloomy

gloomy Quarter, have blackened beyond the Life, and seem wholly unacquainted with the reverse of the Figure.

This also seems to have been pretty much the Case with the Parliament; for however this Inquiry was first set a foot, the Faults of Overseers and Barrack-Masters were the only Quarry pursued; no Defence appears to be made, no Apology for Exceedings either required, or wished for; wherefore we must presume one of two Things, either that the Conduct of Overseers was in no respect defensible, or that Matters were carried against them with such a Warmth (I think you call it Zeal) that they, whose Interest and Honour it was to appear on this Occasion, did not dare to attempt a Vindication.

That many of our Representatives are Men of excellent Understanding and equal Integrity, nothing but great Ignorance or greater Malice can deny; wherefore when we see such Persons coinciding with wrong Measures, we must necessarily conclude that they were deceived.

Gentleman. Take care what you say.

Farmer. Sir, I say that our Parliament was deceived, and by solely attending to one Side of the Question, have been induced to a set of Resolutions, whose Consequence they neither foresaw, nor I believe intended. A set of Resolutions, some of which I shall prove impracticable, others illegal, others cruel, and the whole ineffectual to any one End proposed.

Gentleman. I confess that you amaze me beyond Measure.

Farmer. Sir, it is no way amazing, neither any way criminal, to assert that the best of Men have been deceived; there is a Maxim in our Law that the King can do no Wrong, and you have my leave to extend the same Maxim to Parliaments; but (blessed be our Constitution for it) the Pretence to Infallibility lies quite within another Pale, and such false Claims are foreign both to our Church and State.

I shall

I shall then proceed with all decent Freedom to investigate this Labyrinth, and solemnly declare that I am not conscious of any other Guide than Truth in my Progress.

If I rightly remember, you begun your State of the Barracks with a Recital of the Charters of his Majesty King *William*, and the Letters Patents of their Majesties Queen *Anne*, and King *George the First*, appointing, approving, and confirming special Overseers for the Inspection, Regulation, and Direction of whatever concerned the said Barracks.

Upon this Occasion you did not think it sufficient simply to applaud the Conduct of those first Overseers, but attempted to heighten their Character by degrading that of their Successors, and you mention'd the wholesome Rules, Orders and Establishments of Those, as the only worthy Chart by which These should have steered.

Wherefore, that I may not mistake you on this Head, I entreat you to repeat whether you allow that the Overseers, who disposed and conducted the Establishment of the Barracks from their first Institution, to the Year 1723, discharged their Trust with Prudence, *Œconomy*, and Integrity? Do you allow it, or do you not?

Gentleman. I acknowledge that I urged something to that Purpose, and I cannot now so far retract as not to admit what I before asserted; and indeed our House of Commons appear to be wholly of this Opinion, and the great Contrast between the Conduct of the Overseers before and since that Date, is, as I conceive, the very Thing that provoked and drew down a Parliamentary Censure on the Latter.

Farmer. Your Answer is fair, and I could be contented instantly to join Issue with you on this very Subject of relative Merit, between the Overseers so highly approved, and the Overseers so highly censured; but I shall first endeavour to clear our Way to this Comparison, by answering your several Objections in Order just as you raised them.

First

First then, I come to the Observation you made, that by his late Majesty's military Establishment in the Year 1717, there were 63 Troops and 210 Companies in this Kingdom, and 13,336*l.* 10*s.* yearly appointed to defray the whole Charge, which was accordingly apportioned under the several requisite Heads, and was then sufficient to the full Expence.

And here, Sir, I hope you will pardon me if I tell you that you have not yet sufficiently con'd over your *Manuel* as you call it; pray, did you never remark a Contradiction, or, if you please, a Mistake in the very Face of that Apportionment?

Gentleman. No truly, nor did I think our Parliament capable of any Mistake.

Farmer. Why, there it is now; you carry Matters higher than the Ambassador of *Pyrrhus*, who took the *Senate* for an Assembly of Gods. Be pleased then to turn over to the Article of 6000*l.* allotted for Fire and Candles, and see for how many Troops and Companies it is estimated.

Gentleman. In truth I find here but 37 Troops and 210 Companies.

Farmer. What, no more? 6000*l.* appointed by the nearest Computation, as it is said, to supply Fire and Candles to 210 Companies and 37 Troops; and yet sufficient, by a nearer Computation, (as we must suppose) for 210 Companies and 63 Troops! If so, this is truly as admirable as it is ingenious; but how?

— Your Reason, Sir, your Reason.

On this Side you see that a certain Number of Men are to be maintained at such a certain Expence, you next see that the same Expence is apportioned to a smaller Number of Men, and yet, lastly, you see it resolved that the Expence apportioned (by the nearest Computation) to the smaller Number, is amply and fully sufficient to the greater. Suppose, Sir, you order your Maid *Marian* to Market to buy five fat Hens, and by the nearest Computation you calculate what the Purchase of three fat Hens will amount to, and you accordingly give her the Money; will you

next

ext resolve that your Maid may buy five fat Hens for the price of three, and that too by way of Precedent for the Purchase of all future Hens? This, Sir, what you could not do, and is of all the Privileges of Parliament perhaps the highest. I shall therefore take the matter for granted, for though the Parliament as you see can contradict themselves and no harm done, yet that is a Liberty, which for certain Reasons I don't chuse to take.

After all, if any one should be so obstinate as to imagine, that in the Years 1717, 1722 and 1723, the Money appointed by the nearest Computation to 37 Troops, was not really sufficient to 63 Troops, I then ask what became of the 26 remaining Troops? Did they alone play at Blindman's buff, through three dark Winters, and boil their Victuals by blowing their Fingers?—But I see you grow uneasy, so I shall urge this Point no further.

I return then to your observation, that this Establishment of 13,336 l. 10 s. was appointed and apportioned in the Year 1717, and if you mean, as it should seem, that this Establishment of 13,336 l. 10 s. was then first appointed and apportioned, I know not where your mistakes will end; for the Establishment of this Sum was made, appointed and apportioned in the Year 1703-4, not for 63 Troops and 210 Companies, but for 34 Troops and 155 Companies, specially mentioned, and provided under the several Estimates, as you see by this Paper in my Hand; which Establishment was made by those very Overseers, whose Conduct you so highly approve, and as you may observe by those of highest Authority among them; but I refer the Inferences to be drawn from hence; that I may hasten to your next Allegation.

I mean, where you asserted, that the said Establishment of 13,336 l. 10 s. was sufficient to the full Expence of 63 Troops and 210 Companies for and during the Years 1717, 1722 and 1723; and thence

concluded, that the said Sum was annually sufficient from the Beginning until that Time.

But this, Sir, is a most erroneous Conclusion, and wholly contrary to Fact ; as you may see in this other Extract from the Barrack-Records, where you will find many yearly Exceedings, previous to the Year 1723 ; and indeed one saving Year is so far from being a Precedent to its Neighbours, that they make use of it as an Apology for their own Extravagance. Of this we have a parallel Instance in the two Years last elapsed, wherein there is so far from being any Exceeding, that there is a Saving of some Thousands of Pounds, but if the next Year does not exceed by double those Thousands, you may take my Word that there will neither be Barrack-Masters, nor Barracks standing in this Kingdom.

Why then were those three Years so specially mentioned in the Report ? In truth I cannot guess, unless they were culled like three white Stones from a Number of black ones, to be cast in the Teeth of modern Overseers. But shall I venture, though with trembling, to tell you the Fact as it stands ; the Truth then is, that there were considerable Exceedings in each of those Years, and particularly in the Year 1717, an Exceeding of about five Thousand Pounds, which Inconsistency with the Report, may however be accounted for by the Mistake of the Persons employed to draw out this Part of the Parliamentary Account ; or, as I rather imagine, that the Money specially issuable for the Appointments of those Years, was not wholly disbursed from the Treasury, till some Time after the Expiration, which is frequently, if not generally the Case.

That the Establishment specially inserted in the Report, was made in the said Year 1717, I must believe, because it is so set forth ; but this I can assure you, that through all the Barrack Books and Records, there is no Mention of any Establishment made in said Year, and that said Establishment was

never

never made by the Overseers of our Barracks, in any Year.

I am now come to your *Æra* of 1723, from which you falsely date (as I have shewn) your Commencement of Exceedings.

The way in which you have accounted for these Exceedings, is, by the Indulgence of Overseers to Barrack-Masters, in doubling the Considerations for Repairs and Supplies ; and if the Parliament are well informed on this Head, and that the Fact is really so, we may seek no further for any Cause of these Exceedings, since this single Article of Indulgence to Barrack-Masters, would of itself amount to a yearly Exceeding of 5392 *l.* 3*s.* which in twenty two Years comes to 118,627 *l.* 6*s.* which with the further Indulgence, to each of the two Inspectors, of fifty Pounds yearly additional Salary, and ten Shillings a Day, amounting in twenty two Years to 10,230 *l.* comes to 128,857 *l.* 6*s.* which deducted from the grand Exceeding of 136,841 *l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ leaves a Remnant of 7984 *l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ which thrown into a Dividend of twenty two Years makes no more than an annual Exceeding of 362 *l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* for Postage of Letters, small Perquisites, and charitable Uses.

Admitting therefore that your Reason for these Exceedings was just as it was merry, if I shall be able to give you another very serious and solid Reason, that shall account for these Exceedings as justly as your merry one, you will then have two Reasons, each of which will be sufficient to the whole Exceeding, which you must allow will be tantamount to a very great Saving to the Nation.

And now, being arrived at this important Point, a Point which is indeed the *Zenith* to which all the other Articles are inferior; or, rather the very Center on which they are dependent, and to which they tend : In order at once to abridge and throw a Light upon the Argument, I will expect three reasonable Confessions.

If I demonstrate that those approved Overseers, who formed the first Establishment in 1703-4, were then able at the yearly Expence of 13,336*l.* 10*s.* to defray the whole Barrack Charge with greater Indulgence to their Servants, and greater ease to themselves, than the present Overseers can effect at the yearly Expence of 23,336*l.* 10*s.* even conformable to the Report and Resolutions of Parliament; will you not then allow that in the first Place, I have made a sufficient Apology for past Exceedings; that in the second Place, I have proved the Necessity for a new Establishment; and that in the third Place, the bare Addres of our Overseers for a yearly Establishment of 18,552*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* did really and truly imply as much Modesty and Economy as you ironically asserted.

Gentleman. To answer with Candour, I do not perceive how I can reasonably refuse any one of these Demands; and yet I dare not comply, for you have so far opened my Eyes, that I begin already to fear a Proof, which, like the Sword of the *Macedonian*, would at one Stroke cut in funder every Knot which the Parliament have been tying during a whole Session.

Farmer. Then, Sir, dispute your Ground Inch by Inch, as you can; for I warn you, that all your Skill and all your Force will be wanting to your Defence.

The FARMER's State of the BARRACKS.

IN the ninth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King *William*, ever memorable for his Benefits to these Kingdoms, it was here enacted, that the Sum of 25,000*l.* should be raised from the additional Duties on Excise, and applied to the Building of Barracks for Soldiers, in the most necessary Places in this Kingdom; and in the tenth Year of the same Reign, an additional Aid was for this Purpose granted by Act of Parliament, and appointed to be levied upon all Tobacco that should be imported into this Kingdom,

Kingdom, from the 24th of December 1698, to the 25th of December 1702, which amounted to the further Sum of 33,633 l. 0s. 10d. by his said Majesty's Letters dated 27th of March 1700, there was granted a further Aid of 18,599 l. 2s. 9d. By his said Majesty's Letters dated 16th of August 1701, a further Aid of 22,568 l. 11s. 8d. $\frac{1}{2}$. By Allowance on the Establishment from the 1st of June 1700, to the 31st of December following 5737 l. 19s. 2d. By one Year's Allowance on the Establishment for 1701, 9836 l. 0s. By one Year's Allowance on the Establishment for 1702, 9,836 l. 10s, and by nine Months Allowance on the Establishment to the 29th of September 1703, 7,377 l. 7s. 6d. in the whole amounting to the Sum of 132,589 l. 1s. 11d. $\frac{1}{2}$, all which issued for the Use of the Barracks previous to the 14th of February 1703-4, in which the regular yearly Establishment of 13,336 l. 10s. was made.

Before the said regular and yearly Establishment, the Affairs of our Barracks were altogether implicit and perplexed; though the Barracks were so lately built, the Bedding so lately furnished, and the Utensils so lately supplied, the Demands of Barrack-Masters knew no End; the Claims for Repairs, the Calls for Supplies were clamorous and perpetual; Vouchers and Certificates were indeed produced in plenty, but the Prices of the Goods and the Value of the Work so vouched and certified, were still uncertain and disputable; in short all our Barrack-Elements were in their first State of Confusion, that is to say, in the same original Chaos to which the Resolutions of Parliament (as I shall prove) have again reduced them.

Wherefore, to give some Form to the Institution, and some Bounds to the Expence, the Board of Overseers took a review of all the Disbursements and Estimates from the first Foundation of Barracks, they inquired into the several Rates of Goods and Values of Labour then current, they calculated the different Terms for which such different Effects might endure, and striking a Medium from the whole, at an Estimate

mate which they judg'd the most moderate, they entered agreeable to such Computation into a stated Bargain with the several Barrack-Masters, whereby the Overseers engaged to give, and the Barrack-Masters to accept, the certain Sums, specially and yearly appointed to the several Requisites ; in Consideration of which several Sums, each Barrack-Master obliged himself by his Bonds and Securities, during a certain Term as of Twenty one Years, to keep his said Barracks in due Repair, and to furnish all the Requisites annexed to his Contract.

Thus those Overseers, by a Method truly worthy of Wisdom and Oeconomy, excluded certain Frauds and uncertain Disbursements, by a certain Establishment ; and by vesting the Property of the Barracks and their Appertinences in the Barrack-Masters themselves, they joined the strong Motive of Interest to the weaker Motive of Duty, and made both coincide to the Service of the Public.

Whether their Computation of Rates and Estimates, whereon they formed this Establishment was moderate or not, is no way to my Purpose either to dispute or examine ; but I conceive it greatly to my Purpose, to take a View of their Buildings, which are now so much the Concern, and so unjustly the Reproach of their Successors.

And here, Sir, I fear I must borrow your Æra of Barrack Iniquity, and bring it back to the first Stone that was laid for the Reception of Soldiers.

For of all the Buildings whereon those mighty Sums were expended, there is scarce a single Barrack whose Duration we can promise for any considerable Time. Walls cemented with Clay Mortar, Clay Flaistrings and Rendrings, Wattle Partitions, and slight Scantling of Sapling Timber, could not seriously be intended for the Use of the next Century. On this Occasion Jobs succeeded Jobs to the third and fourth Generation ; nay there are People now living to attest, that the sixth or seventh Undertaker hath executed the Work with which the first was entrusted ; and thus

the

the public Money passed fluent as Water through so many Sieves, though we may with Reason presume, that each Vessel was sufficiently wet by the way.

Hence it happens, that the chief Faults imputed to our present Overseers, amount to this, that they have the Misfortune to live at a Time, when the whitened Walls of our first Barrack Builders have laid aside their original Complexion, and when the Sins committed forty Years past now happen to fly in the Face of the Innocent.

To make this at once evident, I will give you a short and simple State of the Fact.

Before the Establishment of the Year 1703-4 a Quantity of Barracks was either actually built or formed from other Buildings sufficient to contain 33 Troops of Horse, and 156 Companies of Foot. Of these Barracks some have been cast, amounting to the Content of two Troops, and nine Companies; so that of all the Barracks built before said Establishment, there are now only standing a Sufficiency for 31 Troops and 147 Companies.

But don't misapprehend me; when I talk of those Barracks standing I would not be understood that they really do stand, for several of them in fact are down; all I mean is, that they stand on the Establishment, which is as much as to say, that they have a Right to stand, if they were able.

Now, in the present State of frail Mortality, how near the best of said Barracks may be to their Dissolution, though very melancholy to imagine, is what the wisest among us cannot determine; no one indeed can be ascertained how long they will stand, but every one may be ascertained how long they will not stand, that is to say, that at the Expiration of twenty five Years no one of those Barracks will alas exist, except in Fame, or some Ballad, sung to the Tune of *Waste ly the Walls that were so good, &c.*

Wherefore, if the Establishment of Barracks in this Kingdom must subsist (and that it must the Government and the Interest of the Nation say yea, let who

will say no) then there will be a Necessity of building an Equivalent to the Content of those Barracks, either at once, or from time to time, within the Term of the said Twenty five Years.

What those old Barracks originally cost, is not to our Purpose to enquire, as I trust we shall no way take them for a precedent, either in point of Expence or Execution; but of this I am well assured, that, provided our Overseers could procure Servants who would be near as faithful to a public Trust as People are to their own Interest, they might at the Expence of Four hundred and Twenty one Pounds Eleven Shillings and Five pence halfpenny build a Barrack, with its Appertinence of Out-houses, &c. sufficient to a Company of Foot, and also sufficient, with due Care, to the term of a thousand Years; as they might also build a Barrack sufficient to a Troop of Horse, and to the like Term, at the Expence of Five hundred Eighty one Pounds Eleven Shillings and Five pence halfpenny.

Supposing then that the Establishment of Barracks must subsist, and that such excellent Barracks may be built, more or less, one with the other, at the said Computation: We shall then find that the 31 Horse Barracks, and 147 Foot Barracks necessary to be built within the said Term of Twenty five Years, will amount to the Sum of 79999*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* which with 5*d.* thrown in to make sure of Matters, comes to 80000*l.* which divided by twenty five Years comes to an annual Expence of 3200*l.* to which the Overseers on the first Establishment have subjected their Successors, clear over and above all Expences to which they themselves were subject, at the Time of forming said Establishment.

But further, as these old Barracks were in their Vigour and Prime at the Time of said Establishment, being upwards of forty Years younger than at present, which is much, as the Doctors tell you to a crazy Constitution, it is evident that those first Overseers could keep them standing, at much greater Ease and less Expence than our present Overseers can keep them from falling.

The native Seeds of the Distempers which those Barracks inherited from the Vices of the Parents who begot them, did not immediately shoot forth ; and you are sensible, that as the Case is the same with many human Constitutions, there is often more expended in Drugs on such Occasions, than the Drugs and Constitutions put together are worth. that, I believe therefore, that on such a just and weighty consideration you would not think the Difference of People six Pounds yearly *per Barrack* to be an exorbitant Estimate ; however, as I would rather bear hard on our Overseers, than be found tripping in the Calculation of a single Penny, I shall make a Present of Fifty shillings of that Sum, and only demand an Allowance of the Difference of Three pounds Ten shillings yearly *per Barrack* ; and I will again deduct the Ten shillings yearly, on Account of the Deduction from Eighty old Barracks, by the yearly Provision of 3200*l.* for the building of new ones ; so that for several Years this Difference at the lowest Medium will lay a Charge on our Overseers of 534*l.* yearly, over and above the said Sum of 3200*l.* yearly, both which Sums stand clear over and above all Expences, to which the first Overseers were subject, when they formed the first Establishment. — By your Leave, Sir, a Moment I gues your Objection —

Gentleman. With your Favour, my Objections are two ; the first is, that, as I take it, the Barrack-Masters are obliged to rebuild whatever they suffer to go to Ruins ; and my second is, that it does not yet appear evident to me, but that those old Barracks, by constant and timely Repairs, may be supported even beyond the Term you have limited.

Farmer. To your first Objection, I answer, that Barrack-Masters cannot be compelled to rebuild, for two Reasons, each of which is sufficient ; the first is, that they are not obliged by Law, as I shall shew in the proper Place ; and the next Reason, altogether as valid, is, that they are not able to rebuild. But further,

ther, if you please to recollect, we have nothing to do with Barrack-Masters in the present Question, which is, whether the Overseers of 1743-4 could support the Establishment of Soldiers and Barracks then subsisting, with greater Ease to themselves and Indulgence to their Servants, than the present Overseers can support the Establishment of Soldiers and Barracks now subsisting, the one at the yearly Expence of 13336*l.* 10*s.* or the other at the yearly Expence of 23336*l.* 10*s.*

To your Objection then, that those old Barracks by constant and timely Repairs may be supported even beyond the Term limited, I answer, that this may be possible, and barely possible; but I deny that it is either probable, or expedient.

You may remember, that in your Parliamentary State of Barrack-Affairs, you reproached our present Overseers with granting Sums for the mere Repairs of Barracks, that to this Day remain to be repaired; which Sums, however, you observed were sufficient to build excellent new Barracks from the Foundation.

Now, Sir, I admit the Fact to be in a great Measure true, though the Reproach was unjust; for all this was merely tantamount to saying, that a sickly and infirm Constitution, after all possible Remedies, Medicines, and Applications, may shortly become as sickly and infirm as ever.

Are there not many Gentlemen in this Kingdom who might have built elegant and excellent Houses, for the very Sums they expended in ineffectually repairing the shattered Pieces of Antiquity that descended from their Ancestors?

If you fine Gentlemen ever amuse yourselves with reading the Scriptures, you may recollect the Consequence of putting Patches of new Cloath upon old Garments; but I will answer your Objection in every Point, by one very sublime Image, taken from an old Pair of Stockings.

We may with good Reason presume, that these Stockings were once upon a Time in a State of Youth and Strength, and that their Decay was imperceptible till the first Stitch fell. Here then we come in with a

very

very notable Proverb, and a Piece of Advice truly important to all future Barrack-Masters, which is, *That a Stitch in Time saves Nine.* However, I will suppose, in your Favour, that these Stockings are in the Hands of an Oeconomist, who narrowly watches, and instantly repairs this first Failure, yet all this Prudence will not restore them to their first State of Sanity, nor prevent the like Flaws in other Places; Wear and Tear come by Time and Accident; Stockings are as mortal as the Legs that bear them; they will become daily more obnoxious to Damage through Age and Infirmitiy; and larger Rents will require larger Darns; till at length the Value of the Time, Labour, Silk, Worsted, or Yarn, necessary to keep them entire, will be found on a due Calculation equivalent to the Expence of a new Pair, and this is the very Crisis beyond which it will be an Argument rather of Extravagance than Oeconomy to preserve them. I may further assert, that soon after this Period, no Degree of Expence or Application whatever will hold those Stockings together; unless they happen in Hands altogether as ingenious and industrious as those of a famed Virtuoso in this Way, who was so curious and indefatigable in the darning of his Stockings, that no single Thread remained of the original Composition, and he sold them for a new Pair on the Exchange. But whether this Method is imitable with respect to Barracks, or intended to be enforced by the Resolutions of Parliament, I shall leave to such Virtuosi as the Stocking-Merchant himself to determine.

I come now to another Article of Expence unavoidably incumbent on our present Overseers, which was no way incumbent on the Overseers of the first Establishment; but I shall not dwell long on a Truth already known to every Man of every kind of Dealing through every part of *Europe*; and that is the different Price at which all kinds of Commodities together with the Labour of Man are now rated, in comparison of the Price at which they were rated about forty Years past. Now

Now this Difference does not arise, inasmuch as Commodities are grown dearer, but inasmuch as Money is grown cheaper.

The Merchant, will allow with the Philosopher, that there is no Value in Money, further than as it is a Standard or Admeasurement convenient for valuing and transferring such Things as are useful to Man.

Wherefore if the Standard of the Money is doubled through *Europe* within these forty Years, though the several Commodities should continue exactly in equal Plenty, and Proportion to the Inhabitants, Yet the Prices will be doubled in Proportion to this Standard, and yet the Value of those Commodities continue exactly the same: or in other Words, People will by common consent give double Prices for those Commodities, not because they value them higher than formerly, but because they have double the Money to give in Exchange.

I must further observe, that in some Kingdom such as *Ireland*, though Money should rather decrease than encrease, through some collateral Circumstances, or Disadvantages, peculiar to the Place, yet if that Kingdom hath the Power to export any of its Commodities, those Commodities will not be rated in proportion to the minuteness of the domestick Standard, but in proportion to the largeness of the foreign One, because all Men will chuse to value and transfer their Commodities by the largest Standard they can.

Having thus explained the Reasons on which the Matters of Fact are founded, I have nothing further to do than lay down the Fact itself.

The Linnen Sheetting, which forty Years past might be purchased at about *7d. per Yard*, is now rated at *11d. or 12d.* Woollen Caddows and Blanketting bear pretty near the same Proportion. Oak Timber is in like manner risen from somewhat upward of fifty Shillings to about four pounds *per Tun*; in short there is no Man come to the Age of Reflection, who may not recollect, that within the said Term of forty Years, there

here is a very considerable Rise as well in the Rate of all kinds of Labour, as of all kinds of Commodities.

I have known the Difference, arising on this single Article of Rates within said Term, computed at near fifty *per Cent.* or one Penny in two Pence; but I think one Penny in three Pence, or even in four Pence, will come closer to the Medium of a just Calculation.

Moreover, as I would oblige our present Overseers to be much better Managers than their Predecessors were, I will allow them no more on this Head than one Penny in five Pence, or in other Words, I will allow them no more than five Pence, to purchase the same Labour and Commodities that their Predecessors could have purchased at four Pence. I will even strike off 1336*l.* 10*s.* from the first Establishment of 1336*l.* 10*s.* and allow our present Overseers no more than 1500*l.* to provide the same Establishment that I think their Predecessors might with Economy have provided at 1200*l.*

Thus, this single Article of the Difference of Rates will amount to the Difference of three thousand Pounds yearly, which with the former Difference of 534*l.* and with the further former Difference of 3200*l.* yearly, will amount on our present Overseers to a yearly Charge of 6734*l.* clearly exclusive of all Expences to which the first Overseers were subject, when they formed their said Establishment.

I come next to some other Articles of Expence, for which there was no kind of Provision made by the Appointments of the first Establishment, and I have much better Vouchers to produce for several of these Articles, than any whereon the Parliament founded their Report,—don't be alarmed, Sir, I have spoke no Treason, they are no less than the Parliament themselves who votch for me on this Head. Look to your favourite Report, and you will find that the Ground and House Rents now payable for Barracks, over and above what was payable long after the first Establishment, amounts to the yearly Sum of 808*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* A little further you will find 31*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* annually allowed

lowed for keeping the Infirmary at *Limerick* in Repair, and still further you will find an additional Salary of 100*l.* yearly granted to the Inspectors; which several Sums make the Sum total of 940*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

Now though the Parliament have not ordered any Provision wherewith to defray this Expence, yet since they have resolved that it is an Expence for which no Provision was made by any former Establishment, it does not become us to resolve any thing to the contrary, and so we must e'en let it stand.

Further again, you will find in the Parliamentary Apportionment of the Establishment, said to be formed in the Year 1717, that there is the Sum of 100*l.* allowed to the Barrack-Master of *Dublin* and his Assistant, 10*l.* to the Coal Measurer of *Dublin* Barracks, 40*l.* to the Surveyor General's extraordinary Clerk, &c. and 100*l.* to the Council of the Barracks, no one of which Articles was provided for by the said Establishment of 1703-4, and which put together make the Sum of 250*l.*

If I don't tire your Patience, I must apprise you that there are several other Contingencies, such as Postage of Letters, Repairs of the Clock and new Stables of *Dublin* Barracks; *Waterford*, *Cork*, *Kinsale*, *Limerick*, *Dungannon* Fort, and *Dublin* Barrack Lamps; Printing Work, &c. all which I will lump in for the small Allowance of 250*l.* yearly, which I assure you is a cheap Penny-worth by upwards of 200*l.* but a generous Temper will never stand out for Trifles.

Thus these Contingencies of 250*l.* with the preceding 250*l.* together with the said 940*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* when added to the above 673*l.* make the Sum total of 8174*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* wholly exclusive of any Provision or Appointment of the first Establishment.

I am now come to what I hope to make the last Article of my Charge, if you will but fairly compromise the Matter. The Particulars which I thus expect to strike off with you at an equitable Computation are the additional Number of Barracks to be repaired, and the additional Number of Men to be provided with Bedding,

Bedding, Utensils, Fire, Candles, Straw, &c. over and above any Provision made for such Repairs or Supplies at the time of the first Establishment.

But to make you a Judge of the Justice and Moderation of my Demand on this Head, it will be necessary, first, to inform you of the Number of Barracks and Men, that have been added to the first Establishment.

The Number of Barracks built or formed from other Buildings since the first Establishment, are in all 101, that is to say, for 35 Troops, and 66 Companies, but as eleven of the old Barracks provided by the said Establishment, have been cast, I will suppose the same Provision sufficient to eleven of these additional Barracks, and then there will remain 90, and this you must allow is fair and honest Dealing.

The Men provided for by the first Establishment were 34 Troops, at 43 Men to a Troop, and 155 Companies, at 60 Men to a Company, making in all 10,762 Men, and the Number of Men on the present Establishment are 12000, from whence deducting the first Number, there will remain 1238 Men and 90 Barracks, clear of all Barracks or Men provided by the first Establishment.

Now, Sir, as it would be troublesome and tedious to calculate the separate Articles of the Repairs, Bedding, Utensils, Fire, Candles, Straw, &c. necessary to said Men and said Barracks, I would chuse to include the Whole under one Article of a reasonable Provision for this Number of Men, and this I assure you is an extraordinary Concession on my Part, as those Barracks are near hand a Sufficiency for three times the said Number of Men.

Tell me then frankly, what you think a reasonable Consideration for a common Man to give yearly for staunch and warm Lodging, clean Bedding, fresh Sheetting, a Sufficiency of Fire and Candles, with the Use and Wear of all convenient Utensils ?

Gentleman. In truth I am not a competent Judge.

Farmer. Do you think a Penny per Day exorbitant ?

Gentle-

Gentleman. No surely, for the poorest Labourer can earn six Pence *per Day*, and I take it that the Articles you recited amount to at least one fourth Part of the real Necessaries of Life.

Farmer. Your Observation is just. One Penny *per Day* we will therefore allow, and no more, to each Man of this Remainder of Horse and Foot, Officers included ; which in 365 Days makes the Sum of one Pound ten Shillings and five Pence, which multiplied to 1238 Men, makes the Sum of 1882*l. 15s. 10d.* which with the former 8174*l. 2s. 2d.* makes the Sum of 10056*l. 18s.* over and above, and wholly clear and exclusive of every single Article, provided for or appointed by the Overseers of the first Establishment, which added, makes the Sum total of 23,393*l. 8s.*

Thus I have fully explained and demonstrated the Truth of the Proposition above laid down, which was, that the Overseers of the first Establishment could defray the whole Expence of said Establishment for the Sum of 13336*l. 10s.* yearly, with greater Ease to themselves and Indulgence to their Servants, than the present Overseers can defray the Expence of the present Establishment for the Sum of 23336*l. 10s.* yearly.

I acknowledge that the Necessity of adding so great a Sum as 10000*l.* yearly to the first Establishment, would be extremely provoking ; but then let our Resentment fall where it ought, 3734*l.* of this Money, is, as you see, to be placed to the Account of the most excellent Architecture of your approved Overseers ; 3000*l.* more is to be charged on those unlucky Accidents, that with a Plenty of Money, have introduced a Difference of Rates, 1882*l. 15s. 10d.* is to be ascribed to the Encrease of Men and Barracks, and may at any time be saved by disbanding the Men, for the Barracks will disband themselves of Course. 381*l. 4s. 8d.* being for the Repairs of an Infirmary and additional Salaries, stands specified, and yet clear of Condemnation in the very Report of Parliament. A Trifle more is assignable to Contingencies ; and here,

there remains only a yearly Exceeding of 808 £. 17 s.
d. Ground and House Rents, for which our pre-
sent Overseers can be justly arraigned.

Arraigned indeed they may be, but whether con-
dicted is yet a Question.

To discover this, you must note, that Part of this
Exceeding hath accrued by giving larger Rents for
Ground, where Barracks had been built on very short
Leases: And Part hath accrued by giving both House
and Ground Rents, to Proprietors who built the Bar-
racks at their own Expence.

Now, to the first Part of this Exceeding, I fear
we must once more introduce your darling Overseers
of the first Establishment, who making a most judi-
cious and exact Calculation of the Term for which
many of their Buildings would endure, proportioned
the Contracts of the Barrack-Masters and the Leases of
the Ground accordingly, that is to say, they struck off
the Whole at the Term of 21 Years.

All therefore that the Parliament can on this Head
object to our present Overseers, is their indiscreet
Zeal, in attempting to support those Barracks against
Nature, and against the Art of the original Builders;
or had those Barracks been permitted to follow their
own Inclinations, this Charge of Renewal had intirely
been saved.

However, this Zeal of renewing Barracks and Lea-
ses together, was not wholly effectual, there is one of
those warlike Buildings which still stands out, the Pro-
prietor of *Trallee* absolutely refuses to capitulate, and
the Barrack there, being turned into a Mault-House,
hath made equitable Reprisals for other Mault-Houses
that have been turned into Barracks.

To explain the second Cause of this Exceeding, it
is necessary to remind you, that from the time of the
first Establishment till the Year 1731, there was not
Number of Barracks sufficient to contain his Ma-
esty's Forces; our Overseers were therefore reduced
to the Dilemma either of building new Barracks at the
Public Expence; or of contracting for Ground and

House Rents with those who proposed to build said Barracks at their own Expence: Now for the first Method, no sufficient Fund was provided, wherefore they were compelled to accede to the Latter.

I remember, that on this Occasion, you reproached our Overseers, forasmuch as they had not the Rudeness to reject People of Figure, whose Address presented the great Advantages of Situation for Barracks, where it was the great Interest of the Proposer to have them built.

I suppose, by People of Figure, you meant, People of Fortune, and pray, Sir, with whom else could our Overseers contract? Could the Poor afford to build Barracks where the Fund of the Nation failed? But these Men of Fortune, you say, had an interested View in these Proposals; undoubtedly they had, they regarded the Peace and good Order of that Part of the Kingdom where their particular Concerns lay, and they had a further Prospect of improving their Estates, by promoting Trade and the Consumption of Commodities by the Soldiers. Our Overseers therefore, with equal Thrift and Prudence, laid hold of this interested View of the Undertakers, and accordingly contracted with several at a Rent below the common Interest of the Money that was actually expended on the Buildings.

Thus you see this last annual Exceeding of 808*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* accounted for with Advantage to the Nation, except a Remnant of 307*l.* 15*s.* being the Ground and House Rents contracted for since the Year 1731, in which Year it was resolved by our House of Commons, that the Number of Barracks, then built, and contracted to be built, were sufficient to contain the Army upon the Establishment.

Of this Difficulty I shall barely hint the Solution. Is it not possible that some great Men might have received Proposals from the Undertakers of Barracks, and have recommended the Propriety of the Execution to the Board? There are certain Persons, whose Recommendations are equivalent to Commands,

whose

uild said those Actions I shall not take upon me to canvas, the first and on whom our Parliament were extreamly far from wherefore intending the most distant Reflection.

After all, I acknowledge that I do not look on the proached Institution of Barracks, as a particular Exception from the Rude and other Institutions, that are administer'd or carried Iress re for public Utility. Perhaps there neither was, for Barracks, nor ever will be such a Thing wholly free from proposed Abuse. The Case is very different with Works carried on for private Advantage, and for this very People simple Reason, that People take it into their Hearts, could ou to love their own Interests, better than they love the interest of the Publick. Wherefore it is not my Intended? But my intention to clear this Institution from all Imputation of Abuse; but I thought it necessary to shew, that the Parliament have not been lucky enough to hit upon the real Abuses, and I will shew that they have been still further from applying a Remedy.

A small Recapitulation will give you to remember, that the Parliament have founded their Resolutions upon a Contradiction in the very Face of the Report, and upon several other Misinformations and Mistakes that followed fast on the Heels of each other; all this I have already made evident, and now I shall make it evident, that it hath happened with the Parliament as with a Man, who proposing a Journey Eastward, set out Westward; and by that Means was carried further from his intended Rest, by every Step he travelled.

Upon this Occasion I can't forbear repeating a scrap of *Latin* which I saved from a smattering of School Learning, *Ex uno Absurdo dato Mille sequuntur*, to wit, that he who hath the Advantage of establishing one Absurdity in the Front of his Argument, may have the Pleasure of introducing a thousand; or in other Words, when you once suffer the Head of a knavish Clan to get into your House, the Doors fly open to his whole Train of Followers.

The RESOLUTIONS of PARLIAMENT examined.

THE first nine Resolutions of Parliament are wholly taken up, in Recapitulating the heavy Grievances, Damages, and Abuses, which this Nation hath suffered, through the Misconduct of Overseers; and the tenth Resolution instantly comes to the Redress, but how? Why, the Abuses are represented to be wholly committed by the Barrack-Board, and the Punishment is wholly applied, and the Redress wholly sought, among the Barrack-Masters; which is just as equitable, as if Lord Peter should commit Fornication, and the Church enjoin the Penance to *Paul* his Servant: this Method of Proceeding is however so far from being unprecedented, that it is even as old as the Siege of *Troy*. *Dilirunt Reges plectuntur Achivi.* And for the King's Offence the People died.

If a good Housewife loses her Needle above Stairs, would you think it either wise or pertinent that she should go down to look for it in the Kitchen, yes, you will say, for it might possibly happen to drop through the Loft; very well; we will therefore walk down and join in the Search.

In order therefore to discover, whether this Treasure, supposed to be lost among our Overseers, is to be found among our Barrack-Masters, you must first note, that from the ninth to the twentieth Resolution, almost the whole Parade is made about Contracts, the Sum of which is, *that every Barrack-Master, before he enters upon his Office, ought to perfect the customary Contracts with the Overseers, in which Contracts he ought to acknowledge that he has viewed the Barracks, Beds and Utensils, and that they are in good Order and Repair, and ought to enter into a Bond with two sufficient Sureties resident in this Kingdom, for the due Performance of his Contracts, and that the Penalty*

of

ENT *If such Bond should be double the Sum to which his Sa-
lary and Allowances for Repairs and Utensils amount
in one Year, and ought to oblige himself, in Conside-
ration of the several Sums allowed to him for those Pur-
poses, to keep and deliver them up in the like good Or-
der and Repair at the Determination of his Office.*

Here, our Lawyers are of Opinion that in case of
any Accidents, as of Storm, or Fire, though the
Barrack-Masters should be in no manner of Default,
and cannot be omnipresent throughout his District, to
defend the several Barracks from such Damage ; he
yet ought by Virtue of these Contracts to rebuild
them at his own Expence ; so that if our Parliament
by some other Resolutions, had not been guilty of a
Piece of Charity to Barrack-Masters, which they did
not in the least intend, each of those unhappy Crea-
tures, notwithstanding their best Endeavours, would
be hourly in Peril of the Loss of some Thousands
of Pounds, and could never lye down at Night, with-
out the Apprehension of being ruined before Morn-
ing.

Mighty you would conclude must be the Advan-
tage in Proportion, to the Risque of these Barrack
Adventurers ; how much do you think ? Even about
five Pounds yearly for the Repair of each Barrack,
where often double that Sum is insufficient.

Be pleased to recollect that the Report of Parlia-
ment is almost a continued Reproach to Overseers on
Account of their Indulgence to Barrack-Masters, they
knew the Overseers held the Reins of Government,
but they thought their Hands too slack, wherefore
the whole Purport of their Resolutions, is to apply
the Check and the Whip more forcibly ; according-
ly several *Jebus* have been added to the Seat of Pow-
er, and for upward of two Years past have driven
these hackney'd Wretches at an inconceivable Rate,
without paying one Penny for Hire, or allowing a
single Morsel for Provender.

Now whether these Beasts of Lash and Burden, could avoid their Drivers, you shall judge by noting how excellently well they were yoaked.

Here are some of their Bonds and Contracts, and here it is worth observing that the Overseers on the one Part, and the Barrack-Master on the other, are the only contracting Parties, and accordingly, *the said Overseers do contract that it is their Opinion, that the said Barrack-Master in Consideration of the following Services and Covenants by him to be performed, shall and may yearly receive the following Sums*; and here the said Sums are specially set down and apportioned; and here again the said Barrack-Master is bound as with a Cable, to the Performance of those several Services and Covenants. But lest a Thread of this Cable should happen to entangle the Overseers, and lest the said Barrack-Master should in earnest expect a Consideration for such his Services and Covenants; the Overseers have had the Caution to advise All whom it may concern, as also the worshipful the Bench of Judges if this Business should happen to come before them, that their Part of the Contract was all a Joke; and accordingly they have been careful, as you see, to insert, *that it is declared that nothing herein contained shall charge, or is meant or intended to charge the Overseers before-mentioned or any of them, or any of their Successors, with all or any Part of the Sum or Sums to become due or payable to the said Barrack-Master, and that he will not demand or expect the same or any Part thereof from the Overseers before-mentioned or their Successors.* And these are the individual customary Contracts, which the Parliament have resolved that all Barrack-Masters shall perfect, and which are resolved to be enforced with all possible Rigour, against said Barrack-Masters and their Securities.

You, Sir, are a Gentleman every way my Superior, and yet if you (as Overseer) were to perfect such a Contract with me, there is not a single Lawyer at our Bar but would inform you, that if I neglected the Performance

Burden, performance of the said Services and Covenants, you noting would neither recover from me, nor oblige me to such services upon a Contract, where you excepted yourself from being sued for a Consideration ; and every Lawyer would further inform you, that if I actually performed said Services and Covenants, I might sue and recover from you, notwithstanding such Exception, because you were the Person who employed me. But, alas, where is the Lawyer who will venture to give the same Opinion, between Power when thunders from *Olympus*, and Subjection that lies exposed to the Tempest below ?

Gentleman. Pardon my Interruption, I have a great Curiosity to know what this wonderful Charity is, of which you say the Parliament has been guilty with respect to Barrack-Masters.

Farmer. Well remembered, why, the Parliament fearing that the Overseers might actually happen to pay the Sums stipulated in their Contracts with Barrack-Masters, and so perform in earnest what they only engaged in jest ; were resolved to provide against this also. And now, Sir, if you have at any Time played at Cross-Purposes, I will shew you the highest improvement of that Diversion that perhaps you shall ever meet with. You have probably heard of an ancient Gentlewoman called, *Penelope*, who, as an extraordinary Instance of her good Housewifery, used to unravel over Night what she had sedulously Woven in the Day. Be pleased then to observe that notwithstanding this elaborate Web of Resolutions for the enforcing of Barrack Contracts, here are one or two opposite Resolutions which make a quick Solution of the whole System.

In the 15th Page of the Report you find these Words : *Notwithstanding the following Resolution in the Journal of 1707, Resolved that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Barrack-Masters ought to account upon Oath for all Sums expended by them for the Use of the Barracks.*

Now though this Resolution was made in the Year 1707, you see it is here applied to the Year 1744, which shews that the Parliament judged that this Resolution should continue in force till an express Repeal; and they yet further enforced the said Resolution by the 33d Resolution of the said Report, to wit, *Resolved that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that all Accounts to be made up on Account of the Barracks ought to be sworn to, before one of the Barons of the Exchequer or Master in Chancery, and proper Vouchers produced for all Money layed out on Account of Barracks.*

Now to shew you the palpable inconsistency between these last Resolutions and the former, I must observe to you, that the wise Compilers of our Laws have founded those Laws on that immutable Reason which is founded on the Truth of the eternal Founder of all Things; and these Laws attest, that in all Dealings between Man and Man, all Contracts are mutual, and all Obligations equal; that no Claim can be made where no Consideration was given; that there should be no Risque of Loss where there is no Hazard of Gain; that a Right of being sued implies an equal Right to sue; and that there can be no Obligation of Damage where there is no Possibility of Advantage.

Contracts are a kind of Matrimony, where the Parties are equally yoked; loose one, and you release the other of Consequence. Or if you please we will compare them to a Balance, where the Law is the Hand that weighs all Things with Equity, but if any one should take the Weight from either Scale, the Equity vanishes, and the other Scale sinks to the Earth.

The Application is evident, the former Resolutions by Contract oblige the Barrack-Master to special Services for special Considerations, the latter Resolutions repudiate these Considerations and oblige him to Account; that is, they oblige him to the specialty of the Service, but take away the specialty of the Consideration;

the Year Consideration ; and thus they render the Contract
ar 1744, single, and the Obligation unequal ; they subject him
this Re- to an unlimited Claim, in the very Articles where
gress Re- they limit his Demand ; they compel him to the
Resolu- Risque of excessive Damage, but forbid the Possibility
port, to of the smallest Advantage ; and all this indeed they
Committee, can do, provided they can reconcile Contradictions,
the Bar. and that such Resolutions have a Power superior to
Barons of Law and Reason, which I am willing to believe, in
d proper Honour of our P——t.

By the former Resolutions, the Barrack-Master is
a Man who engages to build a certain House, for
a certain Sum of Money, where, if the Expences are
less or more than stipulated, the Loss or Profit is
equally his own.

By the latter Resolutions, the Barrack-Master is a
Bailiff, a mere Instrument in the Hands of the Over-
seers, a Conduit through which they convey Money
for their several Purposes, and which is answerable for
just as much, and no more than it received.

Make him then an Undertaker, or make him a
Bailiff, this or that you may do, but you can't make
him both.

Thus these Resolutions, like *Esau* and *Jacob* fight
one against the other in the Womb of this Report.
But if one Resolution cast out the other, to which
shall we adhere ? to neither surely. For we are told,
that if *Satan* cast out *Satan*, he is divided against him-
self ; how then shall his Kingdom stand ?

Gentleman. As I take it, our Law does not regard
the Quantity of the Consideration, provided any cer-
tain Consideration is given ; now there is a Sum of
Fifty pounds specially mentioned in the Contract for
which the Barrack-Master is not accountable by any
subsequent Resolution ; and may not this Sum be a
Consideration sufficiently legal on the one Side, to
oblige him to the Performance of all the Covenants on
the other ?

Farmer. The Contract will answer you. — Here
you see each special Service annexed to the special
Consideration

Consideration for which it is to be performed, but this Sum of Fifty pounds stands clear of each Service, and is indeed no other than a Salary for his general Service as Bailiff, and which was accordingly appointed before any of these Contracts were formed — but a foolish Story hath often served for a shrewd Illustration.

A certain poor and simple Fellow called *Thomas* lived in the County of *Tipperary*, and was Tenant to a Landlord, who was just wise enough to be a very great Man. This Landlord happened to be fond of dealing in Hogs, and used to give *Thomas* Five pounds yearly, for the Care of his Pigs, and his Trouble in marketting ; but finding that *Thomas* gave in Bills upon Bills, and suspecting him to be a Knavè at Bottom, he sat down by himself and calculated what the several Articles of Expence might reasonably amount to ; and annexing the several Sums to the several Heads, he called in *Thomas*, and asked him whether he would be content to accept said Sums yearly as a Consideration for Grains, Wash, fresh Straw, Repairs of Styes, &c. leaving him still his old Salary for his Care and Trouble. *Thomas*, who knew that to contradict his Landlord was as much as his Place was worth, agreed, and his Landlord drew the Contract, where, in his great Equity he inserted, that if any of these Sums should happen to be behind or unpaid, *Thomas* should not have the Impudence to demand, and much less be able to recover them at Law ; but should be contented with whatever his said Landlord pleased to give him ; and accordingly simple *Thomas* made his Scrape, and retiring, blessed his Honour for his wonderful Justice and Generosity.

Soon after this, *Thomas*, finding that his own Interest was united in this Affair with the Interest of his Landlord, laid his Shoulders to the Business with all his Might, spared no Trouble that would save a Penny, supplied great Quantities of Straw from his own Hagard, and Grains from his own Corn, and

grew

grew ingenious in many Contrivances for cheap and lasting Provisions ; accordingly, he began to thrive in the World, and many of his Neighbours who envied him, and were for undermining his Employment, represented to his Landlord, that these evident Profits could not but arise from some hidden Knavery.

Now you must know, that this Landlord was of the true *Hibernian Strain*, he looked on himself as impoverish'd in equal Degree as his Tenants grew enriched, and nothing could provoke his Spleen like the Prosperity of those who lived under him ; wherefore, he sent for *Thomas*, and made not the least Scruple of declaring his Mind.

Friend Thomas, said he, I must be plain with you, I hear Stories that I do not approve, you are gathering a Penny, *Thomas*, and I know no Means you have except you squeeze it from my Purse ; now I should like the Savings you make by this Employment full as well in my Pocket as in yours ; for, to tell you a Secret, when I made the former Bargain with you, it was by no Means my Intention, that Heaven should bless your Endeavours in any of your Dealings with me. However, don't misapprehend me, I don't mean that our Bargain shall be void, no, our Contract, on the contrary, shall be more binding than ever, that is to say, it shall leave me free, but be doubly binding on your Part ; wherefore, I resolve, that you shall have the same Zeal, Diligence, and Application, for my Interest as your own.

First then, after the due Care and Provision for my Pigs, if any little Perquisite or Saving remains, refund is the Word, *Thomas* ; and lest you should defraud me I will have your separate Oath for every separate Article ; and lest you should swear false, I will have a Voucher for every Oath ; and lest your Vouchers should join in your Knavery, I will have Certificates for every Voucher.

On

On the other Hand, my good Friend, if any Appointment contained in our Contract should at any Time happen to be insufficient, you are to expect no more Money on that Head from me; but mark me further, if I find the least Defect in a single Article of the Provisions, if my Styes should go to Decay, if they shall be burnt by Fire, or overthrown by Tempest, if any Accident whatever shall happen by which Sickness comes to these my Pigs, or Damage to these my Properties, you shall be compelled to furnish, supply, repair, rebuild, and restore the whole intire, at your own proper and personal Cost; otherwise I will give you a Stone Doublet; and to make short of the Matter, this is my *Resolution*, from whence there is no Appeal.

Hereupon *Thomas* replied not, but withdrew, silent, and exceeding sorrowful. He now wanted the accustomed Motives to Industry, he set about his Work wholly listless and dispirited, he could procure no Vouchers for the Value of his own Property, nor Certificates for the Value of his own Application. He must disburse for all things, Markets grew high, Accidents came on, some Styes went to wreck, others received the Weather, the Pigs died of the Meazles, *Thomas* was cast in Jail, and ended a simple Life with this wise Reflection, *that truly his Landlord and he bad brought their Hogs to a fair Market.*

Gentleman. I don't perfectly apprehend what you mean by a Man's not being able to procure Vouchers for the Value of his own Property, nor Certificates for the Value of his own Application.

Farmer. I will explain it—Where a Barrack-Master is at a Certainty in his Appointments, and may possibly make a Saving to himself, if he hath any little Fund of his own, or Credit to raise it, he may seize the Advantage of buying a Quantity of Provisions at the cheapest Season and at the best Hand.

For the like Purposes he may keep Masons, Carpenters, Smiths, Slaters, or Weavers on his own Lands, and have their Labour in consideration of their Tene-

ments,

ments. He may manufacture his Ticken and Linnen from the very Seed, and his Woollen from his own Sheep, and in like manner he may provide Candles much better and cheaper than at the Shops.

With respect to Firing, he may on occasion of an extraordinary Bargain lay in a quantity of Coals sufficient for two or three Seasons, or contract by Commission at the Mines, or purchase a Share in a Coal Boat, and run the Risque of a Wreck with the View of a cheaper Importation. Or he may Purchase or farm a Plot of unprofitable Bog, and expend considerably in draining and reducing the same, with an honest and just View of future Advantage; by which method he will at once improve the nature of his Turf, and provide a sufficient Quantity of dry and convenient Ground whereon to cure them; and there is not a single Article of all this Management and Œconomy, which our Barrack-Masters have not actually put in Practice.

All this you must allow to be a very great Saving, perhaps of one half in the whole, and therefore half the Value of those Commodities arises merely from the method of Prudence and Industry by which those very Savings were made: But a Man would be extremely puzzled to swear, vouch, certify, or even calculate what those Goods cost the Manufacturer, because his own incertain Industry and Management are certainly a Part of that Cost.

Suppose then that these Barrack-Masters, through their love for their dear Country, and through that more especial Affection which they bear to our Honourable the House of Commons, are zealous to make the like Savings for the Nation, what a Mortification it will be to find themselves prevented, where the Parliament, in order to introduce a Saving, have shut out the very Method by which the Saving could be made.

The 20th. and 21st. Resolutions merely regard the Residence of our absenting Barrack-Masters; two Instances of this Default have happened since the Institution,

stitution, one in Mr. *B.* and the other in Mr. *Simson*; and as this is the only Default with which Mr. *Simson* can be charged, his Fraternity are obliged to the Parliament for compelling him to Associate. I have therefore nothing to object to these two Resolutions, and I wish that they had not only passed against the Absentees of Barrack-Houses, but against the Absentees of the most Honourable House in the Nation.

The 22d, 23d, and 24th, Resolutions import, that the Barracks of this Kingdom with their Furniture ought to be kept in constant good Repair by the Barrack-Masters, that they are sufficiently paid for so doing, That the Sureties of deceased Barrack-Masters, who suffered Barracks, &c. to go out of Repair, ought to be sued effectually; and that all Salaries and Allowances of Barrack-Masters should be immediately stopped and applied, and continue to be applied to such Repairs, till the whole should be compleatly repaired.

In answer to that Part of these Resolutions that regard the Furniture of Barracks, I am really of Opinion, that the Order is practicable, and that, notwithstanding the great rise of Rates, our Barrack-Masters might still supply and preserve their Bedding and Utensils intire within the Allowances specially appointed, provided they were not precluded as above from a due Degree of Industry and Economy.

But with respect to the Barracks themselves, supposing that the Salaries of these Men were thus charitably to be stopped and applied with the Appointments to the Repairs of these Barracks, how long do you think it would be before such Repairs could be compleated, and before these Wretches could receive a single Penny Consideration for their Labours?

Gentleman. I know not indeed.

Farmer. I will tell you then—even till Dooms-day.

When these Barracks were first built was it expected they should last for ever? I have proved that the Builders had no such Intention. Shall they then be kept in Repair for a longer Term than they will last? this does not appear over feasible. They are then to be

rebuilt, by whom? by the Barrack-Masters. Out of what Fund? their Appointments. Here also two little Difficulties occur, the one that it is unjust, the other that it is impossible.

The first Barrack-Masters who were appointed, engaged to keep said Barracks and their Furniture in Repair for the Term of 21 Years only, the Allowances judged reasonable for such Repairs were calculated and struck by the Overseers themselves, all was new, all intire, Labour was cheap, Rates were low, the Trouble was less, and the Profits inconceivably greater than to their Successors.

At length this Term of 21 Years expired, the Buildings were on their decline, new Barrack-Masters succeeded, who, unhappily for themselves, were not Architects, they saw not into the Core of a Fruit that might look fair, nor into the Rottenness of those whit'd *Sepulchres* where their Fortunes were doomed to be interred; they depended on the Candour of that Government whose Servants they were, and accepted the said Employment on Terms in Appearance the same, but in reality extreamly different from those their Predecessors enjoyed.

Our Overseers were conscious of this great Disparity, and accordingly redressed many Grievances upon due Representation and Complaint, and even our chief Governors were so fully perswaded of the Insufficiency of the first Appointments for the Support of said Barracks, that several, who represented the sacred Person of his MAJESTY, presided at the very Board where extraordinary Supplys were ordered for the Repairs of said Barracks.

This Equity however is now judg'd iniquitous, let us see then if the Matter is mended.

I have already demonstrated that the due Rebuilding and Support of our present Barracks during the Term of 25 Years will require the Sum of 3734*l.* yearly, over and above, and wholly exclusive of the Appointments specially established which make the fur-
ther

ther Sum of 2042 l. 16 s. yearly, and united make the Sum of 5776 l. 16 s. yearly.

Now all the Money allotted by Parliament for such Repairs and Rebuilding, is, first the said special Appointment of 2042 l. 16 s. and secondly the Salaries of the 26 Barrack-Masters amounting to 1350 l. yearly, and which together make no more than the Sum of 3392 l. 16 s. yearly. So that this Reckoning happened to be made when no Host was present, for there is still a Lackage of 2384 l. yearly, which in the said 25 Years will amount to the Sum of 59,600 l. by which Deficiency the Barracks at the Expiration of said Term will be reduced to such a ruinous Condition, that new Resolutions will then be necessary for the further Stoppage of Salaries, and so on *ad infinitum*, which may be deemed over long for Barrack-Masters to attend the Payment of their Wages.

But further, these Appointments and Salaries, so resolved to be stopped, are also resolved to be applied to said Repairs, &c. But who shall apply them? The Overseers? Our Lords the Bishops and Judges I fear will not relish the Employment, and would haply make but an awkward sort of Barrack-Masters. A new Set of Men must therefore be employed, and what Assurance have we that these will be a whit honester, or more understanding than the former? beside, they may not be altogether of such a disinterested Spirit as not to require some Consideration for their Labour, here then new Salaries become requisite, but for these there is no Fund. Wherefore the Sum of these 3 Resolutions amounts to this, that one Part hath already abolished our Barrack-Masters, that the other Part will speedily abolish our Barracks, and we want but one Resolution more to dispatch our Soldiers, and then the whole Affair will be quite out of Dispute.

In truth I have known our Overseers so puzzled, so perplexed in their Attempts to reconcile this Warfare of Resolutions, that for fear of opposing some they have neglected to side with any, in order to execute

ite all, they have yet done just nothing, and being usually attracted to opposite Roads, stand Point for point in the individual Spot from whence they were first ordered to set out.

Never were Resolutions more absolute, never were verieers more obsequious ; but there is under the same uthority such a Miscellany of *Mammons* and *Divi- ties*, that Obedience to these is direct Rebellion to ose, and thus it becomes most prudent to pay Wor- ip to neither.

To the 25th Resolution, which prohibits the Sale of the Employment of Barrack-Masters, my Objec- tion is as harmless as the Resolution it self, which I observe to be only superfluous, forasmuch as I shall new that under the present Resolutions, there is no one who would accept of a thousand Pounds, to be oaked to this valuable Employment.

The 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th Resolutions express, *That the Overseers, through their great Indulgence to Barrack-Masters, have usually contracted with them to provide Fire and Candles for the several Barracks, and have allowed them unreasonable Prices, and have not obliged them to make the just Savings. That no Contracts ought to be made with the Barrack-Masters for Firing and Candles, but that they should be obli- ed, as Servants to the Publick, to buy with ready Mo- ey at the cheapest Prices, and to produce the Affidavits and Receipts of the Parties from whom they have bought, containing the Quantities bought and the Prices paid, also, Certificates of the two next Justices of the Peace, that the Prices mentioned in the Affidavits and Receipts, are the most common and usual Prices. That the Sa- vings of Fire and Candles should be made according to the Deficiencies of Officers and Men in every Barrack, and that the Barrack-Master should keep a weekly Ac- count of the Officers or Men wanting or absent, and that the Savings already made or hereafter to be made, upon the Articles of Fire and Candles, ought to be truly*

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and punctually accounted for to the Overseers, upon Oath, and carried to the Credit of the Nation.

Now how comes it to pass, that it is here resolved, that Barrack-Masters shall not contract, but shall account? Why was it not resolved as in the other Appointments, that they should both contract and account? That if any Savings might be made, they might be carried to the Credit of the Nation, but that if any Deficiencies should happen, they might be supplied by the Barrack-Masters out of their own Substance. There is the same Reason in both Cases, why was there not the same Rule? But if such Rule appeared unlawful and iniquitous here, why did it not appear equally iniquitous in the other Articles? The best Sophister would be posed for an Answer to these Interrogatories.

Well, the Barrack-Masters here are to answer for no more than they receive, and so far these Resolutions must be allowed their due Share of Equity; but what follows? Why, it is resolved, that the Barrack-Masters shall purchase Fire and Candles at the cheapest Price, and must accordingly deliver in their Accounts upon Oath, but these Oaths will not be believed. They must then apply to the several Persons who sold these several Commodities, and procure their Vouchers and Affidavits for the special Rates and Quantities, but neither will these be credited. They must therefore travel and apply further to two Justices, and procure their Certificates of the Reasonableness of the Price.

But suppose these People with whom they deal, or the Justices to whom they apply, should prove refractory to these Orders, where is the Remedy? or what are the Barrack-Masters to have in Consideration of this Heap of Bargains, Oaths, Vouchers, Affidavits, Certificates, Journeys, and Applications? even that individual Salary which is stopped and applied to other Purposes.

Gentleman. I see indeed very evidently, that whatever Savings were proposed by Parliament, no Savings were

vere intended for Barrack-Masters : But I am strongly of Opinion, that under these Resolutions that respect the Firing and Candles, however severe they may be to Barrack-masters, some real Saving may be made to the Nation.

Farmer. Do you think so ? then let us put it to the Tryal. Do you stand for the Parliament, and, hard as the Conditions are, I am content, for a few Minutes, to be a Barrack-Master, and now put all your Resolutions in Force, or new form and mould them at Pleasure, and try what hand you can make of me.

First, There are only three Methods by which a Barrack-Master can provide Turf for his Barracks ; of these, the first and cheapest is, to cut them on his own Bog by the Hands of his own hired Servants ; the second Method is, that of contracting with Labourers at so much *per Kish*, to whom Half is to be payed in hand to carry on the Work, and the other Half on the Delivery of the Quantity agreed for ; and the last, and by far the dearest Method, is that which is appointed by Parliament, *viz.* to buy with ready Money.

Gentleman. I will then change my Resolutions, and compel you to the first and cheapest Method.

Farmer. Then, Sir, you must quit your Claim to Oaths, Vouchers and Certificates, because I cannot strictly give them on a Calculation that is in its Nature incertain ; and on the other hand, if you do not exact such Oaths and Vouchers, I have it wholly in my Power to defraud you by an exorbitant Charge.

Gentleman. Then I will oblige you to the second Method.

Farmer. This, Sir, is a higher Pitch than the Resolutions of Parliament can soar, for you cannot oblige me to any Risque of Damage, where I have no Possibility of Interest or Advantage. Now the Damages which I may incur on this Occasion, are various, the Turf may be set on Fire in the Fields, or be rendered useless by a wet Season, or may not

be sufficient in Quality or Quantity, or the Persons with whom I contract may run away, or become insolvent, of which I have known several Instances; and in all these Cases, I hope you have too much Equity, to require my Labour for nought, and to subject me to the Loss beside.

Gentleman. I will then oblige you to contract, and will my self run the Risque of any accidental Damage.

Farmer. I advise you to some Caution on this Head also, I may otherwise contract with People, who, I know, will become insolvent, in order to give you a Surfeit of your Savings, and to punish you for grudging me the Profits of my own Application.

Gentleman. I find I am then reduced to the Method which the Parliament themselves have resolved, and pray why may not some Saving be made, even in this Way?

Farmer. I will demonstrate the Vanity of such an Expectation.

To provide either a cheap or sufficient Quantity of Turf for the Barracks, you must provide them in the Manner that People provide Turf for their own Families; that is to say, timely, and on Purpose, which can be done only by one of the two Methods already rejected. Wherefore, if I am precluded from these, I am reduced to the Necessity of purchasing here and there where I can best pick them up. But as People seldom cut more than they judge sufficient for their Own occasions, they will exact an extraordinary Price for what they can ill spare, and the Necessity I am under, will tempt them to a further Exorbitance, and thus you will lose more by your own Imprudence, than you prevented me from gaining by my own Industry.

Further, be pleased to look on these several Affidavits, with the Vouchers and Certificates of five several Mayors, and ten several Sheriffs of the City of Limerick, whereby it appears, that the Barrack-Master

Master of said District, hath constantly, during the last five Years, delivered a larger Measure of Coals to the Barracks, than he received at the Ship, and hath paid a larger Price at the Ship, Carriage, &c. included, than he was allowed by the Government. Now, as this Gentleman is hitherto under Contract for Firing, he is obliged to sit down with the Loss, where, under the Resolutions of Parliament, he would have had a further Demand of a very large Sum, notwithstanding his own Industry and Management; and this also may stand as a Sample of the Savings appointed to enrich a Nation.

The second Saving of Fire and Candles, proposed by these Resolutions, is to be made according to the Deficiencies of Officers and Men in every Barrack.

Now if this Saving is to be made by Way of Penalty for their Neglect of Duty, in not attending and residing at their particular Barracks, that is to say, if the Furlows they obtain from their superior Officers are irregular, or of any pernicious Consequence with respect to the Public, such Savings are well intended, and it were to be wished that some further Penalties and Prohibitions were added. But if such Furlows are regular and no way detrimental to the Public, I am not sufficiently clear-sighted to perceive the Iniquity of permitting Soldiers to save to themselves the Fire and Candles in one Place, which they may be obliged to expend at another.

However this Saving is resolved to be made for the Nation; and the only Question that remains, is, with respect to the Manner in which the Saving is appointed to be made; and here indeed some little Difficulty arises, as there are no less than three absolute Impossibilities, all as absolutely necessary for executing this Resolution of Parliament.

When a Barrack-Master comes to one of the Barracks of his District, in order to comply with this Resolution, we will suppose that he first inquires what Officers and Men are absent from said Barracks; but

if he happens to be a Man who scruples to give a positive Oath on the incertain Affirmation of another, he may think it further requisite to have the Testimony of his own Senses, for which Purpose he traverses Room after Room, and minutes down every Man he finds; but here again he may suspect, and not without Reason, that some whom he has left behind may again slip before him, in order by being twice numbered to fill up the due Compliment of Men, and if he is not a Phisiognomist of a most excellent Memory, it may be difficult to detect the Fraud. Wherefore, he will find that the only sure Foundation whereon he can build an Oath, is to Number the Troops or Companies in order as they stand before him, but here again it happens that the Officers refuse to comply, and think it an Indignity to draw out their Men at the Command of a Barrack-Master.

If all these Difficulties could be surmounted, the commanding Officer may yet tell him that Captain such a one is gone to wait on his Lordship, and the young Cornet to pay his respects to the Ladies, that several of the Men are ordered out upon Business in the Neighbourhood, and that the next Day will return them to their Barracks.

Now, all this may possibly be true, and it may possibly be otherwise; the Barrack-Master therefore can swear to no more than he sees; but this is not the Thing required, it is not to those who are present, but to those who are absent he must swear, it is not for what he does see, but for what he does not see, that his Oath is exacted.

Again, it is not to those who are absent for an Hour or a Day, but to those who are absent for a Week, that he must swear; and all this he might safely do, if in the first Case he was omniscient, and in the second omnipresent; for as the several Barracks of his District happen to lye in several Places, it is necessary that the same Person at the same Time should be as separate as his Barracks, to attend with Certainty, what happens or doth not happen therein.

But

But even could he surmount all these *Insurmountables*, he is further to give his Oath before a Baron of the Exchequer, or a Master in Chancery, and here he would certainly meet with a Rebuff; because no Man is by our Laws admitted to swear a Negative.

But lastly, suppose that our Parliament should be so charitable as to soften their *Injunctions*, and to require no more than such a Weekly Account of this Matter as was possible for Mortals to give. Yet several of these Districts are about One hundred Miles in Circuit, and several of our Barrack-Masters are ancient and gouty, long unaccustomed to ride Post, and who perhaps have never read the Histories of *Valentine* and *Orson*, where they might be instructed in the useful *Manage* of a *Pacolet's Horse*.

I have now gone through all the Resolutions whereby any Saving is proposed to this Nation, or that any way regard our Barrack-Masters, except that in the 32d it is ordered, that no Fee shall be taken by any Inspector from a Barrack-Master, and this I acknowledge to be an *Injunction* of much Prudence, as previous Care is taken that the Barrack-Masters shall have nothing to bestow.

Wherefore, we have nothing further than to consider what the Issue of these Resolutions will be, first with Respect to Barrack-Masters, and secondly with Respect to the Nation.

The Consequence of these RESOLUTIONS, with Respect to Barrack-Masters.

WITH Respect to Barrack-Masters, we find, that these Resolutions have in the first place abridged them of any Advantage from the Indulgence of Overseers; in the second place, they are pinned down to all Repairs and Supplies on the Appointments of the old Establishment; again they are ordered

dered to discount for these Appointments, that if any Saving is possible it may be made for the Nation. Again, if there are any Deficiencies they must supply them out of their own Fortunes. Again, lest their own Industry should be charged on such Discount, they must produce Affidavits and Vouchers of the Purchase with ready Money. Again, lest they should have ready Money wherewith to purchase, their Appointments and Salaries are to be stopped and applied by others; but lastly, lest they should wax idle while others do their Business, they are appointed a Circuit of about a hundred Miles each Week, which Appointment of ample Exercise, is the only Appointment that is left them.

This Treatment is exactly parallel to the Treatment of *Job*, where one Loss and Affliction still followed another, till they came to his Flesh and his Marrow; but I cannot promise that our Barrack-Masters will be altogether so patient, and bless that Wisdom which hath brought their Distresses upon them.

To set the Case of Barrack-Masters in a Light still more apparent, let us suppose that whatever these Resolutions express, the Parliament did really and equitably intend, that Barrack-Masters should expend no more than they received; and that at some Time or other they should be paid their old Salary in Consideration of their Labour.

This indeed is comparatively a very gracious Hypothesis, and extremely favourable to Barrack-Masters; let us see then upon this Footing how the Matter will stand.

First then, as the Barrack-Master is to account upon Oath for all Sums by him expended for the Use of the Barracks, he can have no possible Perquisite, and then his only Subsistence will be the Salary of Fifty Pounds, whereof he must give Ten Pounds yearly at least to Servants who attend throughout his District, to keep the several Barracks clean, the Chimneys swept, to change the Sheeting, supply Straw,

receive

at if any receive and deliver out Turf, Candles, &c, and then
Nation forty Pounds remain.

But further, as the Circuits of several of these
Barrack-Masters consist of about One hundred Miles,
hereof a weekly Journey may be deemed excessive
to some of our infirm Barrack-Masters, especially on
foot, and in a Winter Season : I conceive it may
appear reasonable to a Parliament of a humane and
benovolent Disposition, that they should be permitted
to ride ; for which purpose they may hire a Hoby,
perhaps at a Halfpenny *per Mile*, which with six
pence *per Night* at the Inn, will amount Weekly to
the Sum of 7s. 8d. for their Horse only.

With Regard to their personal Expences we should
consider that Travelling is chargeable ; but we are
also compelled to consider that the Fund is but small ;
however, as Innkeepers may not be satisfied, that our
Barrack-Masters should eat Hay with their Horses at
three Quarters, we must venture to allow them a Pot
and a Loaf in the Day, and a Pot and a Loaf at
Night, which making 3s. 6d. *per Week*, with the
former 7s. 8d. will amount to 11s. 2d. weekly,
and yearly will amount to the Sum of 29 l. 0s. 8 d.
which deducted from 40 l. leaves a Remainder of
10l. 19s. 4d.

We are again to deliberate, whether in these cold
and damp Climates some Kind of Cloathing may not
be necessary ; and more especially as Riding is a great
Wearer of Britches, I believe that we may allow,
on the severest Calculation, the Sum of 3l. 19s. 4d.
Yearly, to furnish some Kind of second hand Hats,
Wigs, Coats, Linnen, Bridles or Halters, Straw for
Irish Saddles, and Hay for *Irish* Boots ; and then
Seven pounds remain.

Moreover, these Men who are voted to be the
zealous and disinterested Servants of the Public,
will find it necessary, at least prudent, in driving their
Bargains with Turf-Cutters, Chandlers, Masons,
Slaters,

Slaters, Plaisterers, Smiths, Nailers, Carpenters, Linnendrapiers, Woollendrapiers, Glaziers, Upholders, Ironmongers, Pavers, &c. to spend an odd Twopence in expedient Tipling, whereby they may save a Groat or Sixpence to a frugal Government; which Method has been approved and found successful by all the Naturalists and Philosophers who frequent Fairs, or profess Jockeying; forasmuch as Liquor opens the Heart, humanizes the Countenance, and makes Man more obvious and acquainted in his Dealings; wherefore this single Article at a moderate Computation will come to 1 l. 1 s. 2 d. per Week, which in the Year comes to 3 l. 0 s. 8 d. which deducted from 7 l. leaves a Remander of 3 l. 19 s. 4 d.

Lastly, this remainder of 3 l. 19 s. 4 d. must be further answerable to the Expence of four several yearly Journeys to *Dublin*, to the Expence of Numberless Affidavits before Judges and Justices, to the Expence of many other Journeys to procure Barrack-Provisions, and to the Expence of Clerks, Paper, &c. for drawing an Infinity of Vouchers and Certificates; and the Remainder of this Remainder will be literally and truly the only Wages or Reward which Barrack-Masters can possibly receive, for all their Toil, their Care, their Fidelity, their *Œconomy*, the Impairing of Health, the risque of Life, and an annual Journey of about 6000 Miles, which (provided they are righteous in their Calling) must shortly reduce them to the Wages of the Sinner, -- *for the Wages of Sin is Death.*

If these Servants of the Public were once indulged in Finery, does it therefore become necessary first to strip them to the Skin, and secondly to appoint them tenfold Labour?

If I have a Tree that wants pruning, shall I therefore lop it by the Roots? or what Quantity of Fruit can be reasonably expected, where nothing is left to bear?

Few are the Faults imputed to Barrack-Masters, and still fewer are the Barrack-Masters to whom those

Faults

Faults are imputed ; shall Justice then launch her Bolt without Discernment ? shall the Attonement of Guilt be made by the Sacrifice of the Innocent ? This was not the Judgment that passed even upon *Sodom*, nor such the **LEGISLATOR** who visited the Sins of *Gomorrah*.

There, Ten Righteous Persons were held sufficient to preserve a whole Nation from Destruction : But here, on the Presumption that a Few may be Criminals, all the Righteous are involved in the same Condemnation.

But, *pulchrum est pro Patria mori*, and these Men it seems are our *Hibernian Decii* devoted by the Parliament to the *Savings* of their Country. Wherefore the last thing to be inquired, is, whether this Perdition of Barrack-Masters will be a Saving to the Nation.

The Consequence of these Resolutions with respect to the NATION.

IN all Institutions established for public Emolument, the most evident Rules of good Policy are, first by all possible Means to debar the Persons employed from defrauding the Public, and secondly by all possible Means to engage them to serve the Public.

Wherefore, as the Actions of all Men are determined by some Motive, the only Method in the first Case will be, to take away every possible Motive for defrauding the Public, and in the second to add every possible Motive for serving the Public.

To apply these Maxims to the Institution of Barracks---If Barrack-Masters, whose Employment it is to support and provide said Barracks, will, upon due Calculation, accept of certain Appointments, as a Sufficiency for such purposes, and will oblige themselves in consideration of said Appointments to support and provide said Barracks, these Men are then limited in their Expectations, beyond which they can have no possible Motive or Advantage by defrauding the Public ; and the Expence of the Public is also limited, beyond which no Fraud can happen.

In

In the second Place, to give to these Men every possible Motive for serving the Public, it is as evidently necessary that the sufficiency of the Appointments should be such, as will admit some matter of Profit to Barrack-Masters in every separate Article; Interest and Duty would then go hand in hand, and Inclination join with Engagement in the same Service. It is an old and true saying that *well done is twice done*, they would therefore repair firmly to prevent future Breaches, and in order to furnish the Cheapest, they would furnish the best kind of Commodities, as being the least subject to Decay. And thus the Public would be effectually and unavoidably served, by all the possible Means, that these Men could propose as a Matter of Advantage to their own private Interests.

But now in order to conform to the Wisdom of these Maxims, and to enforce the Application of them for the Support and Advantage of so necessary a Part of our Constitution and Establishment, we shall find that the Parliament have taken a Method, altogether new, curious, and extraordinary. They Vote that *Barrack-Masters ought to account upon Oath, for all Sums expended by them for the use of the Barracks, and that proper Vouchers ought to be produced, for all Money laid out on Account of the Barracks.*

From these Resolutions I will now demonstrate three necessary Inferences; first, that all Bounds and Limitations of the Public Expence are wholly taken away. Secondly, that every Motive for serving the Public is taken away; and thirdly that to add to this Expence on one side, and to this Neglect on the other, the very Means of Frugality and Care are taken away also.

First then, if these Men will Account upon Oath agreeable to the Resolutions, and produce additional Affidavits, Vouchers, and Certificates in attestation of such Account, they have performed the Fulness of the Duty required; for they cannot legally be compelled to account for more than they received.

Wherefore

Wherefore if it should happen that any Provisions are yet unfurnished, or any Repairs unfinished, the Expence becomes unlimited, and farther Sums must still be appointed, or the Establishment left to Decay.

Secondly, as Interest or Affection are the only Motives to Diligence, all Interest is precluded by the Resolutions themselves, and Barrack-Masters will scarce be careful of Savings through Affection to a Government so careful of prohibiting the least Saving to themselves.

Lastly, as Savings are chiefly made by personal Management and Application. These Vouchers or Receipts, will be accountable for ready Money only, and thus the very means of Frugality and Care are taken away, which therefore adds to the National Expence, and deducts from the National Service.

Our first Overseers, in order at once to serve and make a Saving to the Nation, took away every Motive for defrauding the Nation, and added every Motive for serving the Nation.

Our Overseers in Parliament, in order to a greater Saving to the Nation, have added every Motive for defrauding the Nation, and taken away every Motive for serving the Nation.

The first Saving and Service was actually made. The Parliamentary Saving and Service, is yet, only in Expectation.

Before the first Establishment, the Expence of Barracks was great by being unlimited; on the Establishment it became less by being limited; and now it is to become still less by being unlimited as at first.

The first Barrack-Masters were unimpeached in Point of Honesty, they received all Things fresh and staunch, Labour was cheaper, Goods rated lower, all kinds of Management and Economy were permitted, even further Indulgencies were sometimes added, and yet their Appointments were supposed to be barely sufficient.

Our

Our present Barrack-Masters are arraigned in Point of Honesty, their Barracks are ruinous, Labour is dearer, Goods rate much higher, all kinds of Management and good Economy are prohibited, further Tasks have taken the Place of further Indulgencies, and yet it is expected, that from such Knaves under such Difficulties, a Saving is to be made.

True, but for this Purpose a new Establishment is formed, an Establishment of Oaths, Vouchers and Certificates.

We have very lately a most flagrant Instance of the mighty Advantage proposed by the Certificates of Justices, and Affidavits of Workmen, &c. who are appointed by Parliament as Inspectors of better Confidence than those in Place. Now I have seen and compared the Report of Mr. *Lenox* the Inspector, with the Reports of these several Parliamentary Inspectors, and find that the Report of this single Inspector, shews less Favour to Barrack-Masters, and claims greater Confidence from the Public, than the Reports of all the Parliamentary Inspectors united.

Oaths, Vouchers and Certificates, may indeed oblige Barrack-Masters to be strict in their Accounts, either for Conscience sake, or for fear of being detected; but Oaths, Vouchers and Certificates, will not oblige them to be careful, active, or zealous, and without any one of these three Qualities, there needs no Prophet to foresee how Matters will be managed, and how worthily the Nation will be served, where Indolence and Neglect are the highest Virtues to be expected.

We must suppose these Barrack-Masters either to be Men of Integrity, or not to be Men of Integrity.

If they are Men of Integrity, their Affidavits, Vouchers and Certificates, will all be just and true, but then this Integrity will not oblige them to any Risque of their own Substance, in order for a greater Advantage to the Nation, and yet this is what Men venture dayly in their own Affairs, where the

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Probability of Gain overbalances the Probability of Loss. Neither will this Integrity oblige them to expend their own Substance, Time, or Toil, in labouring, travelling, attending, contriving, or seeking extraordinary Opportunities of Bargains or Purchases, where no Profit can possibly accrue to themselves; and yet this very Difference of one and the same Man honestly dealing for another, but prudently dealing for himself, may possibly amount to the Difference of five Thousand Pounds in ten Thousand, and will probably amount to the Difference of one Third in most kinds of Dealing.

But if Integrity can make no Saving under these Resolutions, what a Loss must ensue should Knavery take Place.

May not the Sense of Truth and Honour, grow callous by the perpetual buffetting of Oaths? Such a Complication of Affidavits is a kind of Armour forged for Consciences, that may steel them to all Attacks; may not some hold themselves obliged no further than the Letter? May not others study to evade the very Letter itself? And will such Barrack-Masters be illiberal of the Money of a Government which is itself so very liberal of all Labours, and so averse to any Advantage of Barrack-Masters? Each Question is an Answer to itself.

Thus the Parliament in order to make a Saving to this Nation, have made use of every Stratagem by which a Loss may be introduced, and in order to support our Barrack Establishment, have been ingenious in every Method that could conduce to its Destruction, and accordingly had not our Barrack-Masters actually expended about 12000*l.* of their own Substance to support and supply said Barracks since the last Session, almost the whole Establishment would now have been in Ruines, and 60000*l.* would not have restored the Damaged incurred by the Votes of Parliament.

Such, Sir, is your favourite System of Resolutions, which is more properly a Dissolution of the whole System

tem at once; and thus what you call Reforming I have proved to be deforming, what you style Order and Harmony, I have proved to be Chaos and Confusion.

Two Countrymen of mine meeting on a Morning, the one who had a shattered Spade in his Hand requested the other to mend it, but he with much Modesty and good Sense declined the Task, and assigned a very just Reason. Ora Honey, said he, whenever I mend a Thing I spoil it.

The Importance of the Barrack-Establishment.

BUT all Things else apart. This, Sir, is no Trifle whereupon we have debated; whatever ought to be dear, whatever ought to be sacred to Man, is comprehended in this Subject. The Establishment of our Barracks was introduced with the Revolution, and is incorporated with the Benefits thereof. Upon this Basis is built a Constitution the best erected of any that the World now contains; and this Part thereof is the only Rampart by which the whole is defended. Our Lives, our Properties, our Religion, our Liberties are no otherwise assured; and this Institution is the very Guardian appointed to defend that *illustrious Lineage* whose Majesty fills the Throne, and in whom God grant the Scepter of these Nations to continue for ever.

I am therefore extreamly far from imagining that our House of Commons actually intended the least hurt to this valuable Establishment. They were misinformed and therefore they deviated, they were misguided and it is therefore alone that they went astray. Our Parliament in the general may not be altogether as learned nor as discerning as some others, but then they are as Loyal and as Honest as any Extant.

The long Experience of fifty Years hath demonstrated, that this our Institution of Barracks hath been effectual to the Preservation of Peace, to our Protection from Invasion, to the Prevention of intestine Riots and Rebellions, to the Suppression of Rob-

beries

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beries and Thefts, to the Encouragement of Commerce, the Insurance of Property, and to the Confirmation of our Liberties in every Branch. There is therefore no Farmer, no Stockmaster, no Tradesman, no Proprietor of House or Holding, there is no Lover of his Country, no Lover of his own Interests in this Kingdom, who grudges his Proportion of any Tax which he pays, to the Support of an Establishment so necessary to the Support of our Constitution itself.

Wherefore, when I see our Gentry, our Men of Equipage and Superfluity, so very close in their Savings on this Head; it puts me in mind of a Story which is not wholly impertinent.

A certain Householder, who lived in the County of *Cavan*, had a very large Family but a very small Income. No Man could be more lavish with respect to himself, no Man more frugal with respect to his Family. His Home he as little regarded as frequented, but spent in foreign Riots nine Tents of the whole Living of his Household. On a Day as he was drinking with his jolly Compeers, his Wife happened to call at the Inn, and he with unusual Condescension desired her Company; his poor Consort was highly pleased with the Honour he did her, but observing that the Shillings were flying in Abundance, she gently whispered in his Ear to save one Sixpence to buy Bread for the Family, whereupon, he returned to his usual ill Temper, and cried—*Woman! this buying of Bread will undo us.*

There is an old Saying, Sir, that Charity begins at home, and I wish that it was verified in some of our Members of Parliament, and that the Charity which they so zealously express for their Country, had commenced in the Retrenchment of their own Exceedings, as well foreign as domestic.

Gentleman. I once more advise you to Caution; the unguarded Ease and Freedom with which you generally express yourself, may at some time bring you

into Trouble ; I believe you mean well, but I assure you that on a lighter Occasion I have known a Man called before the House.

Farmer. Sir, the House would do me a vast deal of Honour ; but here you happen quite to mistake the Matter. This is a Land of Liberty, Liberty of which our Parliament are themselves the Patrons, and not the Reprovers ; here, even the Appearance of Reason is to be encountered by Reason alone, and not checked by Terrors, or punished by Stripes ; such an Instance of Power, proceeding from that honourable House, might hereafter return to their own Door. It is the Right, and perhaps the Duty of every Freeholder in the Nation to advise our Representatives of any Error in their Debates, their Intentions, or even their Resolutions before they pass into an Act ; and Falshood and Dissimulation must range wide and unbounded indeed, where Truth cannot tread but by the Rein and the Trammel :

But possibly you yourself have all this time misapprehended the Fact. Where I speak of the Parliament resolving so or so, I would not be understood that they unanimously concurred in such Resolutions, for in Truth the Public are well apprized to the contrary. Some Members, who were true Lovers of their Country, were yet seduced by the outward Glare and false Phantom of Reason which others had conjured up. Some again doubted, but had not Leisure or Opportunity to examine Appearances, and these thought it best to be silent where they could not confute. Others actually foresaw the pernicious Structure of which these Resolutions were laying the corner Stones, and gave many Signs of their Disapprobation ; while a Few were bold enough to oppose, but were unhappily overborn by the Current.

I tell you in the Sincerity of my Heart and Perswasion, that from their *Speaker*, who is their Chief in Merit as in Station, there are several through that honourable House, who are truly and worthily to be

re-

respected — *And where's that Palace whereinto foul Things will not intrude* — Wherefore I would rather suffer all the Penalties that Power could inflict, than that one good Man should be offended.

But if there are any among them, who are kindled by private Motives under a Shew of public Zeal, let such stand forth, for such have I offended. If there are any among them, who *

If there are any among them, who *

If there are any among them, who *

let such stand forth for such have I offended.

Gentleman. There are none such, none such.

Farmer. Then none have I offended.

Gentleman. I acknowledge, that if any Savings may be made, you have now shewn to a Demonstration that the Parliament have not hit on the Method. Will you then, among ourselves, be so kind to inform me whether any Savings may really be made, and what Method you judge most conducive to such an End. — — — You seem to hesitate.

Farmer. The Truth is, that I do not chuse to give in my Answer to this Interrogatory. If any Savings could be made, and that they were really to be applied to Purposes so worthily romantic, as those to which you assigned them at the Beginning of our Discourse, were I myself a Barrack-Master, I would be the first to abridge my own Interests, on so tempting an Occasion.

To a Work so glorious let us all give a helping hand, let the poor Man spare from his Pittance, and the Wealthy pour out of their Abundance, let *French* Claret and *French* Cooks be banished the Nation, let Luxury forego its Expence, and Greatness its lazy

Equipages, let our Beaus learn wherefore they have Legs, let our Coaches carry none but Cripes; let no Honours be payed to Insolence, nor Homage to the Drones of the Land; and let not our Distinctions be of Title and of Dress, but of our Love to our Kind, and our Service to our Country.

These, Sir, ought to be the first, but will really be the last Articles, whereout any Savings will ever be attempted for *Ireland*. But if neither out of these, nor any other Articles, any Savings whatever were intended for any one of the Uses you proposed, will you then tell me (if the Perquisites of People in Employment are to be accounted as Plunder) why Barrack-Masters may not have a right to come in with other Officers for Snacks.

Perhaps I can rather shew you that there is no Body of Men who better merit Indulgence, than these whom you so lately stiled Profligates, neither any Society who would dispose of such Bounties, with more Advantage to the Public, or Benefit to the State.

It is not that several of these Barrack-Masters are of good Fortune and Distinction in their Countries, Justices, High-Sheriffs, or in Parliament—*Such Virtues may be found in other Men*:—But they have in the first Place formed a little Institution among themselves, well worthy the Imitation of all Societies, whether ecclesiastical, civil or military, whereby they contribute five and forty Pounds yearly to the Widow and Family of every deceased Barrack-Master, and in this they have given a very high Instance of their general Humanity and Benevolence.

In the second Place, upon the great and just Alarm of the late Rebellion, these very Profligates deputed a worthy Gentleman of their Body, by whom they proposed to contribute their several Salaries amounting to 1300*l.* yearly, for raising and maintaining an independent Company, by which Offer they gave a very high Proof of their Loyalty and Affection to his Majesty's Person, and of their Attachment to the Pro-

Protestant Religion and our present happy Establishment, and all their Letters are warm with that gallant Zeal and Fire which was apt to the Occasion, but then it may be observed * * * * *

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After all, could these Savings have been actually made, every considerate Man must know that they could never produce any Saving to the Nation.

Saving, or gaining, to a public or private Purse, amounts exactly to the same Sum total, for there never was a Saying of greater Truth or better Economy, than *that so much saved is so much got.* As all Savings therefore are just so much Gains, we may put them under the same Title, and consider the several Methods of gaining to a Nation, all which Methods may be justly ranked and comprehended under three Heads.

The first is that of preventing Money from leaving the Kingdom, the second is that of bringing Money into the Kingdom, and the third is that of making the Kingdom yield a larger Value in Commodities for Use or Exportation.

Now each of these are well worth the Attention of Parliament; and I will shew you, at some other time, the several Articles under each Head, in which our House of Commons might interpose, with great Advantage to the Nation, and as great Honour to themselves. But in the mean time it is evident that the national Savings, proposed by retrenching the Appointments either of Soldiers or Barrack-Masters, cannot possibly be introduced to any one of these Classes, but make a Chapter of Savings by themselves, wholly new and extraordinary.

The Money, committed to the Hands of Barrack-Masters, is actually much better disposed for the Advantage of the Public, than if it was laid up in the Treasury, since it returns again in the most beneficial Channel that any Money can circulate, which is the Employment of Hands, and Encouragement

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of domestic Trade and Industry. So that this great Noise happened to be made about saving so many thousand of Pounds to the Nation, one Penny of which could not possibly be lost.

Give me leave also to drop a Word or two in favour of our Soldiers.

By the Institution of our Barracks, these Men are kept apart from the People, in the Eye and Obedience of their respective Officers, and are thereby withheld from insulting or being insulted, as is commonly the Case in scattered Quarters. By being thus united as one Body, they become more active and powerful for the Suppression of Riots in others, they become also more formidable to the Lovers of Sedition, and Peace is thereby preserved through the Nation. They further become more convenient and apt to the Voice and Direction of their Commanders, Use and Frequency give an Ease and Expertness to their several Exercises, and they are actually reputed the best disciplined Army upon Earth. From this Discipline also they acquire a Modesty and Regularity of Manners, and are truly an Example of Decency and good Behaviour to the Towns and Villages wherein they dwell.

Independent of these great Advantages which are every way worthy of Reward, our Soldiers in many other Respects are good Commonwealth's Men, and are very far from lying a Burden on the Nation. Numbers of them are bred to different Trades and Crafts, and labour diligently in Manufactures of public Utility, while others are industrious and obliging to the Neighbours in Times of a distressful Harvest, &c.

As to our Officers they are generally either Men of Letters, or to some Branches of a politer Education have added the Knowledge of the World; by which they have improved their natural Talents, and smoothed their natural Tempers; wherefore we see few Gentlemen so cautious of offending by their Actions, or so

so easy and agreeable in their Address. These Manners have rendered their Acquaintance desirable wherever they pass; in short they constitute the best Academy that this nation can boast, for a Science the most becoming to Man, a Complacence and Propriety of Behaviour; and it is principally due to their Example, that our young Squires and Cubs of the Country are at any Time reduced to the Form of Humanity.

Such are not the Expences, but such in Truth are the Advantages, from which we seem at present inclined to save this Nation.

Is it not apparent, that any one Absentee, who spends but a thousand Pounds yearly abroad, which he draws from this Kingdom, never more to be returned by any Reimbursement of Cash or Service, is a thousand times more unjust and injurious to his Country, than the whole Body of Soldiers and Barrack-Masters united?

In my Neighbourhood there lived a Gentleman of great Wisdom, Worth and Fortune; and near him a poor Man who had a tolerable good Heart but a very weak Understanding. The rich Man had several Ponds, Lakes and Fountains in his Gardens and Fields; the poor Man had only one Spring-well in his Yard, which however, with some little Prevention of Damms and Enclosures, would have been sufficient for his Family and his Cattle.

Nature had formed a Declivity from the poor Man's Yard to the rich Man's Garden, by which means, should any new Springs be discovered, should additional Water be imported by the Industry of the Family, or should extraordinary Showers fall down from Heaven, the rich Man of Necessity received the Advantage, for whatever was superfluous to the Occasions of this Family flowed to him by an easy Descent.

This poor Man had a very large Family of Children, and like the generality of Parents was ever fondest of those who least merited his favour. Seve-

ral of these his darling Sons were ingenious in many Contrivances for dissipating this Family Fountain; some provided Scoops and Engines that played to a great Elevation, by which this Water was turned into a Mist, and carried off by the passing Wind; others imported a Variety of Fewel, and by the Means of Fire Engines, caused great Quantities to evaporate; while others again were dayly indefatigable in draining this Spring to the very Bottom, with this Water they filled their several Buckets, and were hugely delighted with the Employment of carrying them to the rich Man's Garden, where they emptied them into Ponds that already overflowed; insomuch that if that wise and worthy Man, in Charity as well as Prudence, had not made some wholesome Orders for the Supplys of said Spring, the Source might in Time have dried up, and the whole Family have perished by Thirst.

In the mean Time no one could appear more solicitous than the poor and simple Housholder for the Savings of his Water, It never entered into his Head that the Means recited could occasion the least Diminution. But when such of his Children as were engaged in his Domestick Affairs, when such as were busied in preserving Peace and good Order in his Family, when such as were employed in preventing any Encroachment on this his Spring, being overtoiled with Labour, required a necessary Draught, could he retrench their Cup, he gloried in his Policy; nor once reflected that whatever they drank, passed through their Bodies, and being strained and philitrated by the Gravel, returned to its native Fountain as pure as ever, and without the Loss of a single Drop.

Have you any thing further to advance in behalf of these Resolutions?

Gentleman. Nor ever shall, I promise you.

Farmer. Then, Sir, I will tell you of one honourable Advantage, which you have not hit upon, and that is a Pity, as it is the only Advantage of which they

they will ever be capable with respect to this Nation.

When these Resolutions shall be translated into foreign Languages, and transferred to foreign Countries, when they are further delivered down by Historians to after Ages, as a Model whereby they should form their **Œ**conomy, how greatly amazed will Posterity be at the Zeal and Fervency of a Body of Patriots, so sedulously employed, so minutely inquisitive into Specks scarce discernable in so great a Constitution with what Rectitude will they conceive all the Offices throughout our State to be executed, where such Precautions are taken against the Possibility of Fraud in the lowest. How wealthy must they conclude the public Purse of that People, whose Legislature condescends to such articulate Savings! How clear they will imagine this Kingdom to have been from all manner of Rapine or Imposition! For they will never think it possible, that the Princes of *Israel* should descend to hunt Frogs, while there were Foxes or Wolves to chase in the Forest.

Here the Farmer was silent, and seemed a long Time inattentive to what passed in the Company; after much Debate, half Whispering, and Consultation, a Gentleman was deputed to address him in these Words.

Sir, You unkindly declined to give us your Opinion of a Method by which some Saving might possibly be made to this Nation on the Head of Barracks. However, we have attempted something in this Way without your Assistance; and we conceive, that the best Lover of his Country, cannot wish for a Saving more valuable, than that which may be made by our Scheme.

The Saving we intend, is no less than the Saving of our Constitution it self, the Saving of the Protestant Religion, and the Saving of Peace, Property and Liberty to this Kingdom; all which, we conceive, may be accomplished by the Saving of this
very

very Institution of Barracks, so sacred to the Memory of that glorious Deliverer, in whose Wisdom it was for those Purposes established.

Wherefore, for this End, we have resolved upon the following Means.

First, That an Estimate be immediately made of the Sum necessary for rebuilding and repairing the Barracks of this Kingdom, in such a Manner, that the same may be sufficient, with due Care, for the Reception of his Majesty's Forces, during the Term of twenty Years; which Estimate shall be made by Persons no way to be concerned in the said Building or Repairs, but that the said Sum shall, for said Purposes, be given to the several Barrack-Masters, whose Interest it is to support the said Buildings, or to such other Persons as the Overseers shall judge of better Confidence for so important a Work.

Secondly, That on the Advance of said Sum for said Purposes, the several Barrack-Masters shall be obliged to perfect fresh Contracts, by which they shall engage to support said Buildings (extraordinary Accidents excepted) and to supply the due Quantities of Bedding, Utensils, Straw, Fire, Candles, &c. upon the usual Appointments, for the said Term of Twenty Years. That during said Term, no further Indulgence shall be allowed to any Barrack-Master, but that on the first approved Complaint against a Barrack-Master, he shall be suspended till Amendment, and on a Repetition of such Complaint, turned out of his Employment, and compelled with his Securities to make good all Deficiencies to his Successor.

Thirdly, That at the Expiration of the said twenty Years, the like Estimate shall be renewed and so forward; and in the mean Time that all wholesome Orders formerly made by Overseers shall be revived, and particularly that, the Officers and Barrack-masters shall be obliged to indent throughout the several Districts,

stricts, which Indentures shall once in every Year be returned to the Board of Overseers ; that by comparing them with the Reports of the Inspectors, the Board may better judge of the Condition of the said Barracks, and the Sufficiency of their Appertinencies ; forasmuch as such Officers cannot be supposed to indent for more or better Effects than they actually receive.

Hereupon the Company dispersed, and I thought the Conversation of such a Tendency as the Public had a Right to partake.

However I should be greatly concerned to have hereby incurred the Reproach of betraying what happened in private Discourse, and more particularly of having brought the Displeasure of our honourable the House of Commons on the honest Farmer.

Wherefore I take this Opportunity to assure him, that if any Damage happens, it is much beside my Intention ; that I have a very singular Affection for his Person, and an Esteem at least equal to the utmost of his Merits.

F I N I S.

THE
Old Establishment
 FOR
BARRACKS.

FEBRUARY 14th, 1703-4.

**A COMMITTEE of the OVERSEERS
 of the BARRACKS.**

P R E S E N T,

Lord Chancellor.
 Lord Chief Justice *Pyne*.
 Lord Chief Justice *Doyne*.
 Lord Chief Baron *Donnelan*.
 Mr. Attorney General.
 Earl *Mount Alexander*.
 Sir *William Robinson*.
 Brigadier *Fairfax*.
 Adjutant General.
 Muster Master General.
 Lieutenant General *Erle*.
 Major General *Langston*.
 Brigadier *Ecclin*.
 Quarter Master General.
 Surveyor General.

A S C H E M E

A *SCHEME* of Annual Charge,
for Accommodating Her Majesty's
Army in *Ireland*, quartered in BAR-
RACKS; and for a perpetual Supply of
Repairs, Bedding and Utensils, &c.
for 34 Troops of Horse or Dra-
goons, and 155 Companies of Foot,
consisting of the following Numbers,
Viz.

In a Troop of **HORSE.**

One Captain.	Two Corporals.
One Lieutenant	One Trumpeter.
One Cornet.	36 Horse Men.
One Quarter Master.	

In a Troop of **DRAGOONS.**

One Captain.	One Sergeant.
One Lieutenant.	Two Corporals.
One Cornet.	One Hautboy.
One Quarter Master.	36 Dragoons.

In a Company of **FOOT.**

One Captain.	Two Sergeants.
One Lieutenant.	Three Corporals.
One Ensign.	Two Drummers.
	Fifty private Soldiers.

Fir.

	l. s. d.
Fire and Candles for 34 Troops and 155 Companies	{ 6000 0 0
Charge of keeping the Barracks in constant Repair, as per Agreement.	1263 3 4
Charge of Straw for Soldiers Beds four Times a Year	{ 360 0 0
Salaries to 25 Barrack-Masters at 50 l. to each.	{ 1250 0 0
Watching empty Barracks, and Contingencies thereon depending	{ 250 0 0
Charge of the Barrack-Office in Dublin.	180 0 0
To two Inspectors-General.	315 0 0
Charge for continual Supply of Irons, Beds, Bedding, and Utensils.	{ 3218 6 8
Utensils to Soldiers.	500 0 0
	<hr/>
	13336 10 0

In a County of DUBLIN

In a County of LOUTH

In a County of WEXFORD

In a County of CORK

In a County of TIPPERARY

In a County of KERRY

In a County of KILDARE

In a County of MEATH

In a County of LIMERICK

In a County of GALWAY

In a County of FERMANAGH

In a County of TIPPERARY

In a County of CAVAN

In a County of MONAGHAN

In a County of ANTRIM

In a County of DOWN

In a County of ARMAGH

In a County of KERRY

In a County of KILDARE

In a County of MEATH

In a County of GALWAY

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In a County of MONAGHAN

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In a County of DOWN

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Charge of Straw for Soldiers Beds four Times a Year	} 360 0 0
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